Alabama

Crime - 1938

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
October 15, 1938

'Doctor' In Court When 'Treatment' Fails To Relieve

AN UNUSUAL remedy—placing shoes upside down under the head of the bed every night—might possibly cure some ailment, but for allegedly prescribing it for a "patient," a Negro "physician" brought into Judge H. B. Abernethy's court Friday.

Walter Evans, Negro, living Birmingham Route 7, the complaining witness, told Judge Abernethy the shoe treatment was prescribed for his wife. Evans said the remedy was prescribed by "Dr." S. A. Shackelford by letter when the "doctor" was visiting in Ypsilanti, Mich. Shackelford was charged with practicing medicine without a license.

Evans also told Judge Abernethy that Shackelford "treated" his wife by cutting off her hair and applying ointment to her head. A bill for $60 was tendered, Evans said.

Shackelford told the court he was a farmer in North Birmingham. Decision in the case was deferred until Monday by Judge Abernethy.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
October 6, 1938

Police Arrest 408 Persons In September

A total of 408 arrests were made by the police here during September, according to a report compiled by William C. Tompkins, Jr., fingerprint man with the police department. White males led in the list of arrests with 174. Negro males arrested totalled 160, negro females 48 and white females, 26.

The cost of meals served to prisoners amounted to $466.85. An amount of $1,710.64 was collected from fines and costs.

More persons were arrested for traffic and parking violations than for any other charge, 144 being docketed. A total of 86 arrests were made for public drunkenness. Other arrests included disorderly conduct 15, violating the liquor ordinance 14, reckless driving 8, petit larceny 14, carrying concealed weapons 2, assault and battery 20, driving while intoxicated, 5 and others.

Negro Found Guilty Of Poisoning Attempt

DOTHAN, ALA., Oct. 23.—(Special)—A five to six-year sentence faces J. T. Bivins, negro, convicted in the attempted poisoning of Marguerite Whitehurst, 9-year-old negro girl.

Bivins, who acted as his own attorney, herd a Houston Circuit Court jury find him guilty after three hours deliberation.

The State charged Bivins offered the girl and her sister, Elizabeth, a drink mixed with grape juice and carbolic acid, in order to collect for their deaths under an insurance policy.

While tried on the indictment in connection with the attempt on Marguerite, the negro faces another indictment for offering Elizabeth a drink.

Fleeing Negro Causes Stir In Federal Court

The erstwhile decorum of Federal Court offices was considerably upset and officials and clerks were drawn hurriedly into the corridors of the third floor this morning when piercing shrieks of "help, help, murder!" came from a man who scurried down the stairway with a deputy marshal in pursuit.

When he reached the first floor and was preparing to dash out of the building, a citizen in the post-office lobby tripped him and the deputy close on his heels, seized him and hustled him off to jail.

The commotion was caused by Bubber Phillips, alias Willie Seals, a Negro, who went to the office of the federal probation officer only to learn that he was to be arrested by Deputy Marshal R. L. Crump, who was awaiting for him.

It seems that Phillips was convicted of violating federal liquor laws several months ago and placed on probation. Later another case was brought against him, but for some reason the probation officer was not notified, so the Negro came to report periodically without molestation from the law.

A few days ago the probation officer was told Phillips was wanted on a capias, so when he came in this morning, word was quietly sent to the marshal's office that he was present. It was when he was notified by the deputy that he was under arrest that he made his noisy dash for freedom.

Talladega, Ala., Mountain Home
October 19, 1938

TUSKEGEE INVOKES CURFEW ORDINANCE

TUSKEGEE.—Reviving an ordinance which has been on Tuskegee's statute books for many years and has never been revoked, Mayor G. B. Edwards has invoked the curfew law, and each night, he states, the city bell will ring out at nine o'clock to notify all loiterers to go home or remove themselves from the streets.

Mayor Edwards says this has been done in response to many complaints concerning children and others loitering about the streets at night.

Southpaw Drivers Win Police Scowl

Negro slayings and motorists "cutting corners" when making left hand turns, thus blocking and endangering cars moving in the opposite direction, were listed as major current problems by the police.

Negro slayings, nearly all involving the use of knives, had increased in recent months to about one a week, according to Chief of Detectives Paul Rapport. Serious injuries from knife wounds were inflicted on scores, he said.

Chief Rapport said the killings seemed to come in cycles, but with never a warning as to when one would begin. Since pistols had become difficult to obtain, he added, the negroes had resorted almost entirely to knives.

Birmingham, Ala., News
November 8, 1938

Paroles Sought For Convicts Who Battled Flames

A resolution requesting Gov. Graves to approve 10-day Christmas holiday paroles for approximately 100 county convicts who assisted in fighting forest fires during the last three weeks was adopted unanimously today by the County Commission.

The resolution was adopted on the recommendation of County Engineer H. H. Hendon. The good behavior of the convicts during the period the forest fires were raging in the county was cited by him, who said that only one prisoner escaped during the fire-fighting.

That prisoner, Hendon said, was a water boy who later was recaptured.

County Commission today granted Hendon authority to transfer 40 white women prisoners from Camp No. 2 at Ketona to the county jail for the Winter. The transfer was being made, Hendon said, to provide better quarters for a number of ill Negroes who are housed in a potato shed at the Ketona camp.

Graves Plans To Parole 800 For Christmas

Says His Yule Policy Has Been Justified Over And Over

Convinced of the success of a Christmas parole system he inaugurated 11 years ago, Gov. Graves said yesterday he would reward nearly 800 State convicts with "good behavior" vacations during the coming Yule season.

Pointing to a record which he said showed only about 16 out of over 3,000 given Christmas paroles in the past broke their agreement to return, Graves said:

"The Christmas parole system has worked. I think that is a mighty fine average. The number of convicts with 'A' conduct records who will be rewarded this year will be bigger than ever."

Of approximately 560 convicts, mostly long-termers, released for Christmas last year, only seven are still unaccounted for, Dave Birmingham, convict department chief clerk, said today.

Most returned after their two-weeks' leave. A few more listed as parole violators when they failed to show up were arrested later.

"The way to redeem an erring man is to show him a little kindness," the Governor said. "Meet him half-way, make him do his part, and he will be helped."

In Jefferson, Too

In addition to continuing his policy of giving Yule paroles to deserving State prisoners the executive said he would grant a request that approximately 100 Jefferson County convicts be paroled for Christmas as a reward for their work in helping control recent forest fires.

The Jefferson County Commission adopted a resolution yesterday recommending the paroles, and while Graves said he had not received the resolution "it will be a great pleasure" to carry out the commission's suggestion.

Christmas paroles for State prison inmates are based largely on recommendations of the wardens. The leaves usually are for two weeks, beginning December 15 and ending the first week after New Year's Day.

Pardon Hearings

Gov. Graves and members of the State Board of Pardons will hold hearings in the Governor's private office at the capitol today, of the petitions for executive clemency of four condemned men, two white, the other two negroes—all under sentence to die in the electric chair at Kilby prison on Friday, Nov. 25.

The two condemned white men are Bay Brothers of Etowah County and Connie Vaughan of Jefferson, both convicted of first degree murder. The negroes are Jim Orr convicted in Morgan County of murder in the first degree, and Jimmie Brown, found guilty by a jury in Jefferson of criminal assault.

Hearing of the white men's petitions will be held this morning. Petitions of the other two will be heard this afternoon. A special board of three experts headed by H. G. Camp, physician-inspector of State prisons, appointed by Gov. Graves to examine and report on the mental status of Bay Brothers, convicted wife slayer, has advised the chief executive that in their opinion Brothers is "legally sane."

Negro Who Threatened Selma Officers Held

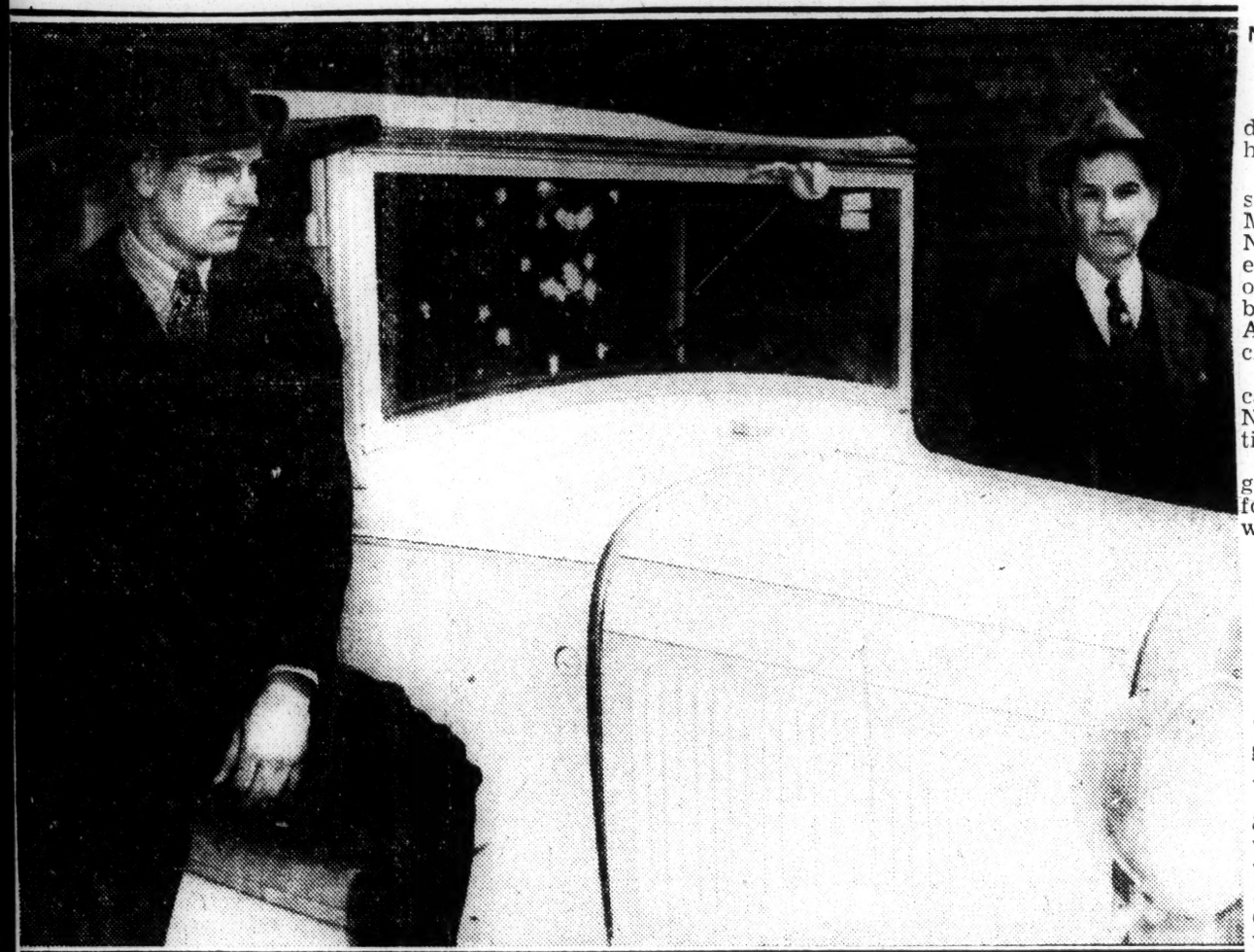
SELMA, ALA., Dec. 8.—(Special).—Robert Meyers, negro, who advanced with a shotgun on Sheriff Sam Reynolds and Deputy Joseph Moseley last Saturday night, when they attempted to arrest the negro, was bound over under a $750 bond at the Thursday session of the Court of Common Pleas. William Craig, local attorney, acted as judge in the place of Judge Winston Rountree, who was absent from the court.

Meyers, charged with assault to murder, caused a disturbance Saturday night near the Tyler Cross Roads, where Sheriff Reynolds and Deputy Moseley went in answer to a call.

Bond of $200 for using obscene language in the presence of women and $200 for resisting officers were also included in the bonds named in the court Thursday.

Birmingham, Ala. News
November 4, 1938

AUTO RIDDLED BY MYSTERIOUS VANDALS



PICTURED HERE IS THE BULLET-SCARRED CAR in which John E. Wilkes was seriously wounded and his father-in-law, Luther L. Pond, was forced to plead for his life when the two were attacked by a gang of men which included both whites and Negroes, while the pair were lost in the hills of Cleburne County Halloween night. A physician dug several shotgun pellets from Wilkes' back. Pond and Wilkes reported they were fired upon as they sought directions to get to a nearby town.

SHOPLIFTER NABBED

Negro Treated At Hospital After Scuffle With Detective

(From Yesterday's Final Edition)

A chase on foot downtown Tuesday afternoon ended in a trip to the hospital for a would-be shoplifter.

Detective Virgil Sandefer said he saw a Negro, identified as Rufus Moore, 29, of 2712 Fifth Avenue, North, attempting to steal a sweater in a downtown store. The Negro, on catching sight of the detective, began to run, turning into the Third Avenue and Nineteenth Street crowds.

When Detective Sandefer finally caught up with him, he said, the Negro resisted arrest and the detective brought his blackjack into play.

The net result was that the Negro was treated at Hillman Hospital for seven knocked-out teeth and was placed in the city jail.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
December 12, 1938

EIGHT ARE CAUGHT IN LAW'S LOTTERY NET

Eight Negro workers of the "Cavalcade" policy syndicate were given maximum punishment in Police Court yesterday.

Six of them were arrested at a Southside branch of the lottery when police lodged themselves in the house of Fred Pullum, 1627 Eighth-av, s, and formed a "reception committee" for policy slip writers as they came in with their collections. Pullum was arrested along with Arthur Cannon, George Hinson, Jim Chaney, Cliff Thomas and Ella McCroskey.

The Negroes were fined $100 each and sentenced to six months in jail. Two other underlings, Le Grant Johnson and Judge Milton, were arrested in separate raids and also given the maximum conviction.

L. Dickerson that he used a screw driver to force the lock on the door to Lilienthal's show window.

Officers Sample and Nelson took the negro into custody Sunday at his home in Self's Alley.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
December 20, 1938

OFFICERS SHOOT IT OUT WITH BURGLARS

One Captured, Two Flee From College

TALLADEGA, Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Two policemen stood off three would-be safe burglars in a pitched gun battle beneath the walls of Talladega College for Negroes here early yesterday, wounding one of the trio in the heel.

The wounded man, who gave his name as Aubrey Elmer Hines, of Alabama City, was lodged in Talladega County Jail for attempted burglary. Officers Howard Bonds and E. G. Harper found white gloves, dynamite caps and a fuse in his possession. Safe cracking tools were discovered in the school's office, where stood a safe with less than $25 in cash in it, according to police.

The two policemen were summoned by the school night watchman. Some 20 shots were exchanged, only one taking effect—in Hines' heel. The other two men escaped in an automobile.

NEGRO WOMAN, 100, IS WITNESS HERE

A witness in Judge H. B. Abernethy's Court of Misdemeanors, a 100-year-old Negro woman, Monday sided with her grandson, rather than her son.

The woman, Lovey Goodson, who lives at Riley Station, told Judge Abernethy she attributed her longevity to the fact she didn't worry about anything. The woman's son, Eli Goodson, 1125 Eighth Court, North, charged in breach of peace proceedings that his son, Earl Goodson, had threatened to "bump him off."

Judge Abernethy placed both father and son under $100 peace bond after the grandmother had testified for Earl Goodson. Each also was taxed with half of the costs in the case.

Birmingham, Ala. News
December 1, 1938

Negro Teacher Gets 'Degree' In Traffic Safety

W. H. Blythe, 34-year-old Negro and instructor at the Council Public School for Negroes in Ensley, received a new degree this morning at "commencement exercises" in Traffic Court.

It was conferred by Judge Frederick Wells. The degree, said Judge Wells, was a T. S. (Traffic Safety).

It cost Blythe $110, a 90-day suspended jail sentence and suspension of his automobile driving license for six months.

Blythe received the degree after Officers Newman, Moore and Joy told Judge Wells they arrested him this morning driving on the left side of Twentieth Street near Tenth Avenue, South. Blythe, the officers said, was drunk and had a razor in his pocket.

Blythe pleaded guilty to the charges of driving while intoxicated and carrying a concealed weapon. He was fined $100 and costs on the drunken driving charge and $10 and costs for carrying a concealed weapon.

Blythe told the judge he carried the razor because one of the students at the school shaved him each day.

Negro, Boasting Ripe Age Of 99, Put On Probation

(From Yesterday's Final Edition)

IKE Poopdeck Pappy, he said he was 99 years old, and full of pep.

So, Henry Hill, Negro, 2409 Fifth Alley, North, was haled before Judge Henry J. Martin in Recorder's Court Tuesday on a charge of drunkenness.

Officers H. G. McNeal and E. B. Tucker, who made the arrest, recommended that Henry be placed on probation, so Judge Martin withheld judgment and said he would take it under consideration.

Selma Negro Tells Of Robbing Stores

SELMA, ALA., Dec. 19.—(Special)—Arthur Fikes, negro, was bound over under three charges of burglary at the Monday session of Recorder's Court, while police were rounding up merchandise stolen recently from three Broad Street stores.

The stolen goods, including several suits of men's clothes and overcoat, five hats and a travel bag taken by Fikes from the Lilienthal Mercantile Company early Saturday, have been recovered by police. They also recovered a sweater stolen from the J. C. Penny window and shoes from Huckaby's. The merchandise taken from Lilienthal's was valued at nearly $275.

Fikes, who has served a term in Kilby Prison and previously was sentenced to three years in Mississippi for burglary, confessed entry to the display windows of the three downtown stores. He told Chief of Police H.

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WILMINGTON DEL NEWS
MONDAY JANUARY 3 1938

CONVICTS RETURN TO JAILS AFTER CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

From All Directions, Alabama's 'Most Worthy Ones' Trek Back to Keep 'Word of Honor' Agreement With Governor and Wardens

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 2 (AP)—Convicts—a majority of Alabama's 550 "most worthy" ones—drifted back to prisons today to keep a "word of honor" agreement to return from Christmas paroles on time.

Today marked the end of a two-week vacation granted the men and women for good conduct. They were bound only by "word of honor, man-to-man" pacts with Gov. Bibb Graves and their wardens to come back.

They filtered in from all directions, but at least one didn't make it. His mother called from Huntsville to report him in a hospital suffering from an appendicitis attack.

A Negro woman who cooks for a Kilby prison official telephoned from Birmingham that she missed a bus and couldn't make the reporting deadline, but added: "I'se on my way." One man called from Memphis, because he missed a bus and would be "thirty minutes late."

Jim Germany, a Negro who hobbles on legs off at the knees, got in well ahead, reporting at 3 o'clock this afternoon. He caught a ride from Tuskegee.

Many of the men brought packages back—a lot of left-over Christmas goodies and knick-knacks—"for the boys who didn't get out."

Of the 131 freed for the holidays at Kilby, 36 had returned at 4 p. m. and arrivals had been picking up hourly since noon. Atmore, next to Kilby in size, reported at the same hour that only 43 of 104 were still out and the remainder had until midnight. At Speigner 33 of 87 were back and Warden J. H. Smith expected them all "by morning."

Hamp Draper, chief of convicts, hoped his "boys" would do better than a year ago when seven broke their word, setting a record for the 10-year practice of rewarding "most worthy" for good conduct.

3 FAIL IN ATTEMPT TO BLAME CRIME ON NEGROES

Press Dennis gets M.A.A.C.P. 4-22-38 refused

Montgomery, Ala., Apr. 22.- The attempt of two white women and a white man to blame Negroes for the slugging and robbing of another white man failed here April 20 when police arrested all three for complicity in stealing of $78 from Abrey Hendricks.

Hendricks went for an automobile ride and a round of roadhouses with the two women and their companion. When he flashed his money they drove to a lonely spot, slugged him, and "rolled"him for $78.

Later, the two women appeared at the police station and told the story of how two Negroes had held up Hendricks and themselves. But meanwhile, unknown to them, Hendricks had complained to the police and a white man had been arrested and identified by Hendricks as the man who robbed him. The two women were promptly locked up and police later announced that they admitted under questioning that they had plotted with their male companion to rob Hendricks and blame the crime on two Negroes.

Sheriff's deputies who investigated the case testified they found Hunt and at first believed him dead. He had been robbed of all his clothing and shoes. The officers said the negroes later were arrested in Pensacola and identified by Hunt as his assailants.

Negro Given Death On Robbery Count

BAY MINETTE, ALA., April 27.—(AP)—Convicted in Circuit Court of the armed robbery of a hitch hiker, one negro today faced death in the electric chair and another life in prison.

The jury, trying Mack Davidson and Ed Jordan for robbery of T. R. Hunt of Jacksonville, Fla., returned the convictions here this afternoon and decreed death for Davidson and life imprisonment for Jordan. Judge E. W. Hare said he would pronounce the sentences Friday.

Hunt, chief witness against the negroes, testified he was hitch hiking along the highway here last December when he was picked up by the negroes. They drove him toward Fairhope, he told the jury, and before reaching the latter place, stopped, beat him over the head with a hammer and left him, nude and unconscious in the woods.

NEGRO WOMAN IS HELD AFTER 'TERRORISM'

TALLADEGA, Oct. 19.—(Special.)—A Negro woman was in jail here today after putting the entire community where she lived to rout over the week-end with a shotgun.

The woman, Francis Curry, was disarmed and arrested by city officers after she had fired more than a box of shotgun shells at the fleeing neighbors, she fought the officers, and said she apparently was crazy from drink, all the way to jail.

FOUR SENTENCED FOR COMMISSARY THEFTS

Four Negroes faced penitentiary terms aggregating a minimum of 31 years today in connection with the burglary of commissaries in the Birmingham district.

William Smith, Fred McClain and J. T. McKinney received three to five-year terms each and McKinney received a four to five-year term in another case. Robert Beard was sentenced to terms of nine to 10 years in two other instances.

Deputies J. L. Boggan and DeWitt Truss, who investigated a series of commissary burglaries in which $15,000 in merchandise was taken, were also responsible for the conviction of Alfonzo Jackson, Negro, who was sentenced to seven to 10 years last Spring.

Birmingham, Ala. News
June 9, 1933

JUDGE EYES PLEA FOR EXTRADITION

Ohio Federal Jurist May Return Negro Here

Federal Judge Mell G. Underwood, in Columbus, Ohio, today had under consideration the recommendation of U. S. Commissioner Robert Newlon that Robert Stearnes, 26, Negro, wanted in Guntersville, Ala., for a brutal assault on a policeman, be sent back to Alabama by federal authorities, according to an Associated Press dispatch.

Extradition of the Negro, opposed on the ground he "would not be given a fair trial in Alabama," has been delayed by Ohio authorities, including Gov. Martin L. Davey.

The United States commissioner, however, recommended Stearnes' removal to Alabama on a charge of violating a federal statute prohibiting unlawful flight to avoid prosecution, and application was made to the federal judge for a removal order.

U. S. Atty. Jim C. Smith, in Birmingham, indicated the Negro probably will be prosecuted in federal as well as state courts on his return here.

Stearnes is alleged to have slugged a Guntersville policeman after the Negro had been arrested for beating his wife.

STATE JUSTICE ISN'T TRUSTED

Ohio Groups Are Trying To Prevent Extradition Of Negro

Contending that Robert Stearnes, Negro, would not be able to receive a fair trial in Alabama, several Columbus, O., organizations have begun a movement to keep him from being extradited to this state. Stearnes is charged with attacking a Guntersville officer in making a jail break.

Gov. Martin L. Davey, of Ohio, has refused the request of Guntersville authorities to allow the Negro to be extradited, according to Jack McGuire, assistant U. S. district attorney here. The district attorney's office, at the request of Guntersville authorities, is now making an attempt to have him brought back for trial.

The district attorney's office had Stearnes arrested for violating the statute of going from one state to another in an endeavor to avoid prosecution. Whether he will be returned here on that charge depends on the outcome of a hearing before a U. S. commissioner in Columbus. The hearing is scheduled to come up in the next few days.

If Stearnes is returned here, he will be turned over to Guntersville authorities for prosecution, Mr. McGuire said.

In a long distance telephone call Mr. McGuire was informed by the U. S. district attorney's office in Columbus that much pressure was being exerted to preevnt the Negro's extradition.

Several organizations were contending, the district attorney's office reported, that Stearnes would not be given a fair trial in Alabama and "that it would be another Scottsboro trial which would result in his being 'railroaded.'"

According to information that the district attorney's office has here, Stearnes was arretsed in February in Guntersville on a charge of drunkenness and beating his wife. He escaped, according to this information, by attacking Frank Matchen, an officer.

Specifically, Stearnes was charged with "using an iron to knock Officer Matchen down and then kicking him several times while he was down."

The Negro was arrested several days ago by Columbus authorities.

JURY TO PROBE BEATING CHARGE

Negro On Trial For Robbery Claims City Officers Tortured Him

Charges by a Negro on trial for burglary that he was brutally beaten by city detectives and patrolmen will be investigated by the grand jury when it reconvenes on June 6.

Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler announced he would order the investigation as a result of testimony by George Files, the Negro, who declared the officers beat him unmercifully on two occasions to force him to confess.

Files said he was taken into the woods, handcuffed to a tree and beaten. Later, he asserted, he was taken to a North Birmingham ice house, where officers twisted his arms and pulled his legs apart causing him to bleed and resulting in agonizing pain.

Assistant Solicitor Grey Tate placed Detectives Fred Cain, H. H. Weir and E. B. Lewis and Officers H. D. Lemmond and F. E. Duke on the stand. All emphaticaly denied beating the Negro or using other "third-degree" methods. Patrolmen Lemmond and Duke declared they had never seen the Negro before.

Judge Wheeler said he would hear later the request of Files' attorney Paul Parsons, that the Negro be examined by a physician. The jurist said that the fact the Negro made the statement in the courtroom was sufficient to demand a grand jury investigation.

"I have a high opinion of Birmingham officers," Judge Wheeler said, "and for their sake and everybody else, I think this matter should be cleared up."

Files is charged with night-time burglary (a capital offense) of the home of Mrs. Annie P. Harris, 61 Second-st, sw, where he allegedly stole a pair of trousers belonging to a roomer, H. A. Peterson. He was arrested in Frisco City, where he was traced as a result of a

Mobile, Ala., Press
May 28, 1938

Parole System Reform

Criticism of Alabama's parole system by Dr. Wayne L. Morse, dean of the University of Oregon's Law School, as among the poorest in the land confirms the judgment of the state's press. The Alabama press has constantly inveighed against the manner of its administration by Gov. Bibb Graves. Dr. Morse, as a recognized expert on paroles and probationary systems, adds the voice of authority to the press' condemnation of it.

What Dr. Morse had to say in his address at Birmingham adds to the mounting evidence of the need of reform in the Alabama parole system. Within the past week other exhibits had been added to the already malodorous record of parole administration under Mr. Graves. The paroling of six negro policy racketeers from Birmingham by Governor Graves without so much as consulting the Jefferson County prosecuting attorney was one example. The alleged participation in the murder of a Alcatraz prison official in an attempted escape plot by a former state prisoner who was sent there for a bank robbery committed while he was out of Kilby on a Graves' parole is another.

The parole system in Alabama is rotten principally because Governor Graves has allowed it to become wedded to politics. Relief from the abuses of the parole system and necessary reforms to restore it to a basis of decency may be expected next January when Frank Dixon, the governor nominee, takes office. Mr. Dixon, during his campaign, assailed the administration of the state parole system by Mr. Graves and in his platform committed himself to reform it.

Details of how the system will have to be revamped to bring about its improvement, of course, will have to be worked out by the Legislature in co-operation with Mr. Dixon. Dr. Morse dropped a hint as to how it may be accomplished. Divorce of parole system from politics, he said, can be effected by a merit system administered by men professionally trained in the field of behavior problems.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 9, 1938

EXTRADITION OF PRISONER NEAR

Beating Of Policeman At Guntersville Is Charge Made

Extradition papers against Robert Stearnes, 26, Negro, charged with having beaten brutally a Guntersville, Ala., policeman in March, 1936, have been ordered by the U. S. attorneys office in Columbus, Ohio, it was learned in Birmingham Wednesday.

The extradition of the Negro has been balked in recent weeks by several Negro organizations in Columbus who have entered the plea that Streans "would not be given a fair trial in Alabama."

U. S. Dist. Atty. Jim C. Smith said Wednesday he is "seriously considering" prosecuting under the federal statute covering unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. The maximum penalty and fine with which a person is charged under this statue is $5.000 and five years in prison, he said.

The Negro's removal was ordered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation after he fled from Alabama.

In addition, Stearnes faces prosecution on a charge of having slugged the policeman when the Negro escaped after having been arrested on charges of drunkenness and beating his wife.

Despite the reluctance of Ohio authorities in granting extradition papers, action of U. S. Commissioner Robert Nelson in Columbus in ordering him sent back to Alabama on the federal charge of unlawful flight is expected to result in his early arrival here. Smith said the only formalities would be for the U. S. attorney in Columbus to ask for a Federal Court order for removal of the prisoner.

Stearnes was arrested in Columbus May 8 for the Guntersville authorities.

Jack McGuire, assistant U. S. district attorney here, said numerous Negro organizations in Columbus had endeavored to help the Negro calling the case "another Scottsboro case."

Efforts by the Alabama authorities were balked when Gov. Martin L. Davey refused to honor requisition papers because they did not include a certified copy of the indictment.

The attack upon the policeman occurred in one of the jail's outer corridors. The Negro will be arraigned before U. S. Commissioner

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
June 15, 1938

There must be a fine type of negroes living around Greensboro in Hale county. Following an attack made upon a prominent woman in her home by a negro whom she surprised in the act of committing burglary, more than 200 negroes offered assistance in apprehending the offender. The usual practice among negroes when a member of their race commits a crime it to shut up like clams and offer no aid whatever in capturing the criminal.

Louise O. Charlton upon his arrival from Columbus.

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Lanett, Ala. News
June 16, 1938

Chief Mobley Shoots Negro "Bad Man" Monday Night

Peter Smith, 28-year-old West Point Negro, is in the Valley Hospital where he is being treated for gunshot wounds in his left leg Smith was shot last Monday night by Chief of Police Mobley, when he attempted to escape after he had been placed under arrest for threatened murder, according to a statement from the head of West Point's Police Department.

The Negro was placed under arrest by Officers Mobley and Sappington after he had threatened to kill a Negro woman. When arrested, he had concealed on his person a .32 calibre revolver and a long knife, the officers stated. It was after reaching the police station that he leaped from the car and made an attempt to escape and Chief Mobley shot him.

PETITIONERS DEMANDED TO WITHDRAW

Voice Speaks Against Move Asking Action On Brutal Officer

IN CAFE RAIDS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(S N S)—A voice over the telephone in the name of the Ku Klux Klan, Thursday night demanded that Attorney Arthur D. Shores withdraw his petition against Policeman George Williams filed with the Civil Service Board June 30 charging the officer with police violence on four colored men. W. E. Shortridge, president of the Birmingham NAACP also received one of the mysterious calls. Both were at their offices at the time.

June 25, Officer Williams raided an Ensley Cafe-Poolroom and clubbed James Curry so severely that he had to be taken to the hospital where he remained for several days. Three other colored men were beaten painfully and required hospital treatment.

Officers raided the same Ensley establishment again last Monday night arresting Proprietor Cole Burrell and all others present. No arrests were made in the first raid.

The sheriff's office was notified of the calls.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
July 8, 1938

Negroes Off to Prison In Small "Race Riot"

Convicted of assault and battery in a small "race riot" with white residents of the Kinsey community, Jack McGlaun, Negro, and his father, C. W. McGlaun, were en route to Four Spot prison camp today to begin working out fines and court costs.

Jack McGlaun, fined $25, drew a two months term while his father, fined $25 on two charges, drew four months.

[illegible] Secret
July 9, 1938

Flim Flam Artist Is Taken Into Custody

But for the intervention of kindly white friends, and their refusal to put up the necessary funds, several hard working negro farmers of the Gosport community would be wiser but sadder and poorer today.

Last week a negro by the name of Will Smith apeared on the farm of some of the Lafitte negroes and showed them a device which he claimed would locate buried treasure. After a search in which the negroes were first given two or three false leads, an earthenware pot was dug up. The pot or jar was sealed and one side was found painted: "1859—H. P. Lee—$75,000 Gold and Silver." On the opposite side as this warning: "Money seal with acit."

The bunco artist explained to the confiding and excited negroes that inasmuch as the treasure had been found on their place, a share of it belonged to them. He also explained that he possessed the necessary solvent to dissolve the seal but that three days would be required for the solvent to act and that if an attempt were made to open the jar in less time, it would explode and destroy them all. He also told them that he had to be on his way and that if they would pay him $375 he would consign his interest in the treasure to them.

The intended victims immediately got busy. They went first to the bank in Jackson, then to the Grove Hill bank in an attempt to borrow the money. They then made an effort to borrow the money from S. C. Gordon, who finally prevailed on them to tell him the purpose for which it was wanted. He explained to them that the whole thing was a fraud and while they were in conversation with him they seemed to realize that he might be right but as soon as Smith got hold them, their fever ran up again. They next went to James Day, who operates a store near their homes. Mr. Day immediately realized that it was a holdup game, but told the negroes he would let them have the money but would have to run over to Grove Hill and get it from the bank. He came over to Grove Hill but instead of returning with the money, returned with Sheriff Cleiland and Horrie Faile.

The Smith negro was placed under arrest and he his churn and his intended victims were brought to Grove Hill. The LaFittes thought they were about to be defrauded of their huge fortune and stood back in awe as Sheriff Cleiland prepared to open the churn warning him that it would explode and kill them all. Nothing occurred, however, as the Sheriff opened the churn, which was found to contain only rocks.

Smith was placed under arrest on a charge of attempt to defraud.

A similar fraud was worked on some negroes east of Whatley recently. A glass jar, allegedly filled with gold and silver nuggets was sold them for $40. When opened the jar was found to contain only gilded rocks.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
July 17, 1938

PROWLERS IN COVINGTON

Night-prowlers have been disturbing the people of Andalusia in certain areas over a period of many months. Both Negroes and white men have been found peeping into windows of private homes in certain areas of the city. It is reported that one Negro has been caught in the act and that he was sufficiently chastised by those who caught him to discourage a repetition of his prowling. As a means of self-protection the men in certain areas are going on night guard armed with shotguns determined to break up this dispicable business.—Andalusia Star.

Shoplifter Bites Three Men To Stay Out Of Jail

But Police Subdue Her And Off To Jail She Goes

A negro woman, apparently inebriated, went wild in the Montgomery Fair bargain basement early last night when she was caught shoplifting. She slung a saleswoman over the stocking counter and sunk her teeth in three men, one of whom required the services of a physician.

She was subdued after a time by Fair employes and held in a third-floor office until the police arrived. She went into action again in Court Square when she was told to get in the squad car. She was finally quelled as a policeman pressed her neck against the sidewalk with his heel.

"I saw what she was up to," Miss Gurley Taylor, the saleswoman, related to a reporter. "She kept edging up to the counter and rubbing her handkerchief down on the stockings.

"I told Mrs. Grubbs to just leave her alone for a minute—it does me good to catch 'em—this is the second one I've caught today. Sure enough, in just a moment she scooped up the stockings.

"I went after her and said 'you can just pay for those.' She slung me across the table and I yelled 'Mr. Franklin' just as loud as I could."

At this point the woman, Lucy B. Clay, 25, began screaming and running, causing considerable confusion. Fritz Franklin, manager of the basement, hurried up and seized the woman. His captive clamped her teeth down on his shoulder, biting through his coat to the flesh. Whereupon, J. H. Ripley, slim young floorwalker, bear-hugged the woman's neck from behind to release Franklin. He succeeded, for the woman withdrew her teeth from Franklin's shoulder muscle—and bit Ripley in the crook of his arm. Her teeth penetrated his grey-worsted suit and drew blood.

"It took five of us to get her in the elevator," Ripley said. "She nearly knocked the elevator girl down."

The elevator girl was ordered to make a non-stop flight to the third floor where the woman was imprisoned in the personnel office until Detective Sergts. D. W. Keener and Clark Frizzle arrived. Ripley said somebody present suggested the use of a hammer. It was found, however, that she could be kept still if several sat upon her.

The woman gave no trouble as Keener and Frizzle escorted her out of the Fair. But just as she was to be put in the car, parked on the Court Street side, she again became frenziedly resistant.

Frizzle went to the pavement with her. She ground her teeth into his forearm, ripping his blue-serge sleeve. Keener placed his foot on her neck, twisted it and bore down. This going-over finally made it possible to place her in the rear of the car.

At headquarters Lieut. Thomas H. Goins discovered $7.15 worth of stolen stockings and a pint of bourbon in her effects. She was charged with grand larceny. A doctor was called to treat Frizzle.

Earlier in the day, due to Miss Taylor's vigilance, Allen McDade, 17, and Annie Mae Clark, 23, negroes, were arrested on a similar charge, Lieut. Goins revealed.

CIO Fights Frameup Of Two Alabama Farmers

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 3—(CNA)—A formal account of the frame-up arrest of two young Negro sharecroppers in Tallapoosa County recently has been filed with Governor Bibbs Graves with a request for immediate action in the case.

The two sharecroppers, Willie J. Hart and Reavy Smith, both members of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing & Allied Workers, were arrested Sept. 7 near the town of Dadeville and charged with "highway rob-

Birmingham Ala Advertiser May 31 1938

CRIME

Bug Tussle Trouble

In Birmingham one day last week a Federal Grand Jury made its report on investigation of 258 cases, returned 219 indictments, ended its work on a record-sized docket for the North Alabama district. Of the cases which made individual news, by far the most sensational was that involving a large section of the hill folk living around the dilapidated Cullman County sawmill community of Bug Tussle — thus quaintly named because a resident once watched two bugs fighting there.

For five years or so certain citizens of the community, according to federal officers who made a minute investigation and recently arraigned seven men in the investigation, had ordered goods from mail order houses, never paid for them. Apparently they hoped to escape detection by such devices as ordering in the names of their children, dogs, cats. Last week's grand jury report placed indictments against a total of 28 Bug Tusslers, promised sensational and ludicrous trials when they face the charges in court. Others indicted:

● Negro Robert Stearnes, who fled to Ohio after attacking an officer who sought to arrest him in Guntersville for drinking and beating his wife, was protected there by Governor Martin L. Davey who refused to extradite him after Columbus Negro organizations protested that he "would not receive a fair trial in Alabama."

● Three Boaz Bryants—Robert Walter, Lofton H., William Comer—on charges of robbing the Sand Mountain Bank at Boaz of about $1,100. They were arrested by FBI agents a few hours after the robbery, which was followed by gun-play in Boaz' streets when business men sought to interfere.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
July 9, 1938

OFFICERS SEEK TWO NEGRO FUGITIVES

State and local police today sought two Negroes—Joe Adams, 21, and John Frank Smith, 26—who escaped from a State Prison road gang near Scottsboro late yesterday.

Adams, a Birmingham Negro, was sent up last year from Jefferson County for grand larceny. Smith was given a five-year sentence in Coffee County for burglary last Spring.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
August 2, 1938

HUNTSVILLE GOES HAYWIRE

Monday morning The Advertiser printed a special dispatch from Huntsville which said:

Ordinances designed to stop picketing of industries, limiting street parades to six persons unless permits are obtained from city authorities, and giving police far greater authority in the police jurisdiction of Huntsville had been enacted by the city council today.

Seven new ordinances were adopted.

They require that persons carrying firearms must register them with the chief of police, and persons selling ammunition must keep records of all sales with names and addresses of purchasers; that persons found inciting riots or disorders may be arrested without warrants; that police have a right to enter any house in which they have reason to believe any person is committing or about to commit a violation of city laws; that it shall be unlawful to use force or threats against any person engaged in lawful business or occupation, that it shall be unlawful to maintain blacklists or boycott any person's business; that it shall be unlawful to attempt or threaten to injure or destroy property of another, and that it shall be unlawful to take possession of the property of another.

The new ordinances also make it unlawful to teach, print books or papers, or organize persons to violate any of these ordinances.

Prohibit mixed assemblies of white and colored people in which destruction of national, State or city property is advocated;

Prohibit any person from attempting to prevent any person from engaging in peaceful work or lawful industry, and;

Provides $100 fines and six months at hard labor as the maximum penalties for violations.

The new ordinances are said to be intended to give police greater powers in regulating the unsettled labor situation in Huntsville areas.

Any Alabamian can appreciate the economic agonies of Huntsville in recent months due to the labor turmoil that has profoundly disturbed that gracious community. Huntsville has suffered at the hands of irresponsible outside agitators—as well, we might say, from irresponsible local employers—and friendly onlookers are sure in their minds that Huntsville stands affrighted at the spectacle confronting it, for, after all, Huntsville wishes to live, and it does not care to live under a labor dictatorship. No community does.

At the same time the thoughtful student of human rights and political science must take exception to some of the principles enunciated by the Huntsville zealots who control the city council of that historic community.

The Advertiser is amazed that so responsible a community as Huntsville could condone an ordinance that declares that the police have the right "to enter any house in which they have reason to believe any person is committing or about to commit a violation of city laws," that it shall be unlawful to "boycott" any firm, and finally that it shall be unlawful "to teach, print books or papers, or to organize persons to violate any of these ordinances." There are other principles in the Huntsville ordinances that are equally odious to the civilized man.

It is all very well for Huntsville to imagine itself capable of outlawing strikes and the normal work of strike agitators, but it is manifestly silly for Huntsville to expect any responsible court of appeals in the land to uphold its bold attack upon the Bill of Rights.

If there is any one principle that is well established in this country it is that men and women have an inherent right to bargain collectively, to bawl openly for their cause, and to print anything that they like, with due regard for the laws governing libel. Does Huntsville desire to be known as the last American community to recognize this fact? It will take something more than idiotic force to stop a radical labor movement. We think it will take something more than Huntsville statesmen have to stop it.—Montgomery Advertiser.

Convicted Negro 'Takes Up Bible,' But In Bad Way

Convicted and fined more than a month ago on a charge of gaming Melvin Saunders, negro, of the Hammond Mines community, "took up" the Bible.

The only trouble, said City Detectives Abe Goldstein and Henry Darnell, was that Saunders "took up" the Bible from the counter of a Birmingham store. They arrested the Negro Wednesday in connection with their investigation of the theft. The Bible was valued at $9.95.

Saunders was fined when tried in court following his arrest by sheriff's deputies on the gaming charge and the judge gave him time to raise the money to pay his fine.

Dothan Man Is Badly Beaten By 8 Negroes

One Escapes But Is Badly Lacerated About Face

DOTHAN, ALA., Sept. 26.—(Special)—Charged with the robbery-assault of two white men, eight negroes were held in the Houston county jail without bond today as one of their victims nursed several broken ribs suffered during the attack.

Sheriff A. H. May said the negroes badly beat C. G. Tice and took his pay envelope while he and H. H. Collins were passing through a negro section en route to Tice's home on the outskirts of Dothan. Collins escaped, the sheriff said, but was lacerated when he ran into a wire fence.

The sheriff reported the men were apprehensive of an attack while going through the negro section and stopped at a store to call a taxi, but left walking when assured by the storekeeper they would have no trouble. When they left the store, he said, one of the negroes whistled and the others ran from houses and parked automobiles and pounced on the white men

Crime - 1938

Arkansas

AME's Mabel Gets 10 Years'

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—William Mabel Burns, Fordyce, Ark., public school principal, "brains" of the Shorter College $2,319.90 holdup, during which AME Presiding Elder O. Sherman was shot, has been sentenced to ten years in prison.

Burns was active in church affairs, and was a delegate to the AME general conference in New York in 1936. Ronnie Ellison and Haywood Duckworth, who carried out the robbery and shooting, received identical sentences. No trace of the money was found.

ATTEMPT AT ARSON CONFESSED BY NEGRO

Efforts Follows Conviction Of 3 On 'Night Riding' Charge

Special to The Commercial Appeal

OSCEOLA, Ark., Oct. 28.—Louis Johnson, 38, negro, son and husband of two negroes convicted here Monday in Circuit Court on charges of "night riding," confessed last night to an attempt to burn a barn on the plantation of Rufus Branch, near Pecan's Point, Sheriff Hale Jackson, announced today.

Dan Johnson, his father, and Beatrice Thurman, alias Dolly Johnson, his wife, were convicted. All were tenants on the Branch plantation. Henry Johnson also was convicted.

Louis Johnson confessed to the fire attempt "because Mr. Branch let my wife and daddy go to the penitentiary and I want to go too," according to Deputy Sheriff John F. Reinmiller. The negro will be given a hearing before Magistrate W. P. Hale of Osceola on a charge of arson.

Motion for New Trial

A motion for a new trial in the cases of the three members of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union is expected to be filed with Judge G. E. Keck at Blytheville tomorrow, Claude F. Cooper, attorney for the defendants, said tonight.

The negroes were sentenced by Judge Keck after being found guilty of the charges by a jury.

The filing of the motion for a new trial will merely be a formality for the taking of an appeal. If the motion is filed tomorrow, Judge Keck will hold the hearing immediately.

There is no error in the court record, in the opinion of Judge Keck, who said in a statement tonight that he had, however, not studied the case since the judgment was rendered and could not make a positive statement until after the hearing.

After the trial, Prosecuting Bruce Ivy joined in denying that union membership or activities, as charged by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union were considered in the trial.

Evidence as to affiliation of the trio with a chapter of the S. T. F. U. in the Memphis District and to their activity in distributing S. T. F. U. strike leaflets filtered into the trial, but Judge Keck instructed the jury that the leaflets were not intimidating and could not be considered in the case.

The "night riding" charges against the negros involved crude threatening notes which the jury found the negro woman had written in conspiracy with the negro men. As a result, according to evidence at the trial, cotton picking on the farms of Mr. Branch and Tryce Battles was hampered.

The men drew two-year terms and the woman a four-year term.

Crime - 1938

D.C.

MOST WASHINGTONIANS NABBED IN 1937 FOR DRINKING

Next Largest Number for Disorderly Conduct; Auto Speeders Number 2,148; Prostitutes 175; Murders 57; Numbers Violations. 132.

WASHINGTON

More than twice as many persons were arrested in the District of Columbia last year for drunkenness, 5,536, than for any other miscellaneous offense, according to the annual report of Major Ernest W. Brown, superintendent of police.

Of the 154,539 persons arrested in the fiscal year which ended June 30 last, 46,668 were colored and of that number 8,606 were miscellaneous arrests.

Speeding Was Second

Next to drunkenness were 2,148 arrests for speeding, followed by 1,146 arrests for theft.

Classified by age, 39,209 were over 21 years old, 3,441 were between the ages of 17 and 21, and 3,013 were under 17 years of age.

Of the 59 murders committed in the District in the last fiscal year, 44 victims were colored, and of the 75 persons committing them 57 were colored.

Felonies

The types of felonies committed by colored persons were as follows:

Accessory to murder, 1; antinorcotic law, 9; arson, 3; assault with dangerous weapon, 259; assault to rape, 2; assault to rob, 12; assault with intent to kill, 8; attempted robbery, 31; bigamy, 5; bribery, 2; carnal knowledge, 20; counterfeiting, 3; depredation of fixtures, 8; embezzlement, 23.

False personation of office, 1; false pretenses, 5; forgery, 13; aiding, and abetting fugitives, 1; conspiracy to violate gaming laws, 11; setting up gaming table, 23; grand larceny, 323; housebreaking, 991; incest, 1; larceny after trust, 8; larceny from District of Columbia, 6; larceny from Federal government, 6;

Arrested for drunkenness	5,536
For speeding	2,148
Theft	1,146
Operating auto without permit	993
Robbery	472
Unlawful entry	451
Grand larceny	323
Prostitution	175
Numbers charges	132
Driving while drunk	117
Violating drug laws	112
Murder	57
Rape	27
Carnal knowledge	20

Numbers Hold 132

Violation of liquor tax act of 1934, 103; lottery (numbers), 132; kidnaping, 1; manslaughter, 2; pandering, 3; perjury, 5; mayhem, 2; murder, 55; national motor vehicle theft act, 2; postal laws, 1; procuring miscarriage, 4; rape, 27; receiving stolen property, 37; robbery, 472; seduction, 1.

Smoke screen, 4; sodomy, 1; three-card monte, 1; unauthorized use of motor vehicle, 170; violation of marine act, 1; white slave act, 1; conspiracy to violate white slave traffic act, 1.

Misdemeanors

Misdemeanors committed were as follows:

Adultery, 5; possesison of liquor for sale, 409; selling liquor or beer without license, 459; miscellaneous violations of the Alcohol Beverage Control Act of 1934, 3; arson (less than $35), 1; assault, 1,239; indecent assault, 13; assault on member of police force, 24.

Attempted false pretenses, 1; attempted housebreaking, 51; attempted larceny, 32; attempted unauthorized use of vehicles, 14; bad check law, 4; carrying weapons, 233; conditional sales, 4; contempt of court, 1; cruelty to animals, 6; destroying private property, 210.

6 Destroy Property

Destroying public property, 6; disorderly conduct, 4,765; dog control law, 112; keeping dangerous dog, 2; drinking in public places, 49; driving motor vehicle while drunk, 117; drunk, 5,536; embezzlement (under $35), 7; failing to pay board bill, 13; false alarm of fire, 21; female employment law, 1.

Fornication, 113; permitting gaming, 49; hack laws, 102; indecent exposure, 85; indecent publications, 3; insurance laws, 1; larceny after trust (under $35), 39; larceny by trick, 20; petty larceny, 1,146; negligent homicide, 6; non-support of wife and minor children, 15; pharmacy law, 7.

Soliciting prostitution, 175; taking property without right, 759; threats, 236; throwing missiles, 14; fleeing scene of accident, 117; operating an automobile on revoked or suspended permit, 45; operating an automobile without permit, 993; reckless driving, 208; speeding, 2,148; automobile title laws, 1; unlawful assembly, 9; unlawful entry, 451; unlicensed dentist, 1; vagrancy; weights and measures law, 2; workmen's compensation law, 1.

Protest Cops' Brutality in The Capital

2,000 Negroes and Whites March in Parade Sponsored by Communist Party— Brown's Dismissal Is Asked

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 10.—In a great demonstration against police brutality in this city, two thousand Negro and white residents of Washington marched in a parade sponsored by the Communist Party.

The participants in the demonstration, which lasted three hours and held the interest of ten thousand spectators, asked for the immediate dismissal of Police Sueperintendent Major Ernest Brown.

Brown has pursued a policy of open brutality toward Negro people. The police department's callous disregard for the lives of Negroes was horribly illustrated last week by the murder of Wallace McKnight, a Negro worker.

McKnight was slain by a policeman while on his way home from work.

DEMANDS COPS SUSPENDED

Mrs. Wallace McKnight, widow of the slain worker, led the protest parade last Saturday night. The marchers carried huge banners bearing the words: "Don't make Washington another Scottsboro: Stop Police Murder!"

At the meeting in which the parade terminated, a resolution was adopted calling for the suspension of six Washington policemen who are guilty of shooting defenseless Negro persons during the past several months.

The resolution also requested the District Commissioners to appoint a committee of Labor, Negro, and Civic organization representatives to conduct a public investigation of police brutality in this District. Compensation for the relatives of police murder victims was asked. A committee of 25 was elected to present the resolution to the District Commissioners.

Daytona Beach, Fla. News
December 16, 1938

Bolita And Cuban Lottery Rampant In Negro District

Bolita, that gambling game which attaches itself to the negro population's income like a leach when permitted to thrive unhampered, is back in Daytona Beach again. From all appearances, it is stronger than ever.

And its companion, a Cuban lottery has made an appearance on Second avenue.

For weeks there have filtered reports to The News-Journal that bolita (the numbers racket) was flourishing again here. Numbers are sold throughout the negro districts, but largely on Second avenue.

The drain on the income of the negro population is said to be affecting legitimate business.

The center of the bolita activities —that is, where the winning number is determined in a "throw"—is said to be in a "jook joint" on Canal road near the intersection of Big Tree road, outside city limits.

The proprietor of that place was arrested by deputies not long ago and charged with violating liquor license laws. Deputies have said they found insufficient evidence of bolita operations to warrant charges based on operating that racket.

There are at least three places on Second avenue where Cuban lottery and bolita tickets are sold constantly. The Canal road "jook" is said to be most active on Wednesday nights, the customary time of the "throw."

Ten tickets in the Cuban lottery, purchased recently by a negro on Second avenue, are in possession of The News-Journal. These tickets are in strip form, possibly taken from a narrow roll. They bear large numbers in black ink with a small numeral placed like a power sign in mathematics. In red ink there is a drawing of two rabbits, two daggers and a dog, making a design immediately under the large numeral. The tickets cost five cents each.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
October 3, 1933

Jewels Valued at $1,000 Recovered From Negro's Home

Jewelry valued at $1,000 reported stolen from the home of Mrs. Edwin Kittell, 1208 Willow Branch Avenue, on September 21, was recovered early this morning by City Detectives L. S. Shelton and Morris Ross after further questioning John Williams, negro, arrested Saturday afternoon in the home of Sam Butz Times-Union sports editor, at 521 Gilmore Street. Williams told the officers where to find the jewelry in his home.

Mrs. Kittell identified the jewelry recovered from the negro's home. The negro confessed that he entered Mrs. Kittell's home by removing a screen in a rear window, investigating officers said.

Williams entered the sports editor's home by pulling the latch off the screen door and using a pass key. Officers believe he is responsible for the theft of jewelry from several other Riverside homes within the past two months.

Postpone Dodd Case Hearing

Parents Fear Gloria Grimes May Be Cripple

Staff Correspondence

(Photo, Page 5)

ASHLAND, Va. — Interviewed here Saturday, Mrs. Lethia Grimes, mother of Gloria Grimes, four-year-old victim of a hit-run driver, declared that her child would be better off dead.

Mrs. Grimes was here to attend a preliminary hearing for Dr. William E. Dodd, former United States ambassador to Germany, who is charged with being the driver of the automobile which struck the child on December 5 and sped away without giving assistance.

Dr. Dodd's case was continued to January 10 on the plea of his attorney that he had not had sufficient time to prepare his case.

Questioned by a representative of the Journal and Guide as to the condition of the unfortunate little victim, Mrs. Grimes said: "I have just left St. Phillips Hospital and my child's condition seems unchanged; she is still unconscious and the doctors hold out very little hope for her recovery.

RICHMOND—Gloria Grimes' condition was slightly better Tuesday afternoon, but her recovery was still doubtful, it was stated at the hospital.

"I would rather she would die now. She is all broken up and unable to talk or recognize anyone. The whole of one side is paralyzed and it is certain that if she gets up, she will be a cripple for life. Yes, I pray now that she will pass away, for I know she will be much better off."

Trial Justice Winston set January 10 as the date for the preliminary hearing after a postponement was opposed by Commonwealth Attorney E. P. Simpkins. To the argument of Leon M. Bazile, attorney for Dr. Dodd, that he had not had sufficient time to prepare his case properly, Mr. Simpkins declared that "it is not necessary or proper in any way called for "to grant the request for a delay."

WANTED POSTPONEMENT TO JANUARY 14

He pointed out that Dr. Dodd was either free of all blame, or guilty of a felony, and the only courses for the judge to take would be either to dismiss the case, or send it on to the Circuit Court grand jury. Mr. Bazile had asked that the case he postponed until January 14.

The trial justice, after hearing from both defense and prosecution, stated, "I am anxious that Dr. Dodd receive every courtesy possible in this case and if his counsel feels that he needs more time to prepare his defense, I am going to grant it."

Crime - 1938

Florida

DON'T LET THEM SEND ME BACK

(Since the tragic tale of the escape of Forrest Hill, young Maine Negro, from the Florida chaingang was begun in this paper, the State has returned him to almost certain death in the southern state.)

By FORREST HILL

(As Told to Martin D. Richardson)

On the day after arrival at Camp Four (the Road Department Chain gang camp) we were roused from 'bed' at 4 o'clock. We washed and ate breakfast, and then were herded into trucks to 'go out on the road.'

Winter visitors to Florida talk a lot about the bautiful highways that it has, but I wonder if they would think them so wonderful if they knew the bodies of convicts like myself that are lying under them, or the blood that is mixed with the smooth concrete. I was to learn plenty about this in the next fe wdays.

I began working along with the rest of the pik and shovel gang. We were doing a hot job of digging der a pitiless, blistering sun. Of course, the work was strange to me, but I trid to make it, knowing that I was 'spotted' as an 'example' to the rest if the guards caught any differences in my work.

But late in the morning the weeks in the dark Jacksonville jail began to tell on me; my eyes, accustomed to so much darkness, almost failed me altogether in the bright sunlight. I went on as long as I could, and when I became afraid that my blindness might cause me to injure the man next to me with my pick, I called the 'whip boss' and asked him to let me go in the shade.

"Sure you can," he said with suspicious pleasantness, "course you can."

I soon learned what that pleasant ness meant. I was taken to a tree, NOT in the shade, and chained to it for the rest of the day. In the night I was taken back in the truck SEPARATE fro mthe others. When we got back to camp I was taken to the famous 'sweat box,' without any ceremony whatever. Every one of the officials seemed to know what to expect. The prisoners knew, too. was the only one wh odidn't.

The sweat box was a little room standing right in the sun all day, and suffocatingly hot at night. In the center of it was a four by four beam across the ceiling. A rope hung from this, and this rope was fastened to my thumbs. The rope wa sthen drawn up until by straining on my tiptoes I was barely able to rest a little of my weight on the floor. The door slammed shut behind the guard and here I stayed until four o'clock next morning.

It was a good thing for me that I don't know how much I suffered that night; before three hours of it I was unconscious, and stayed that way a good part of the night. In the morning, when the guards came back, they had to make me wash my face several times in cold water before I was able to stand and walk.

When they offered me a chance to go back to work or spend another day in the 'box', you bet I chose to work. But it was a bad choice; before ten o'clock I had 'fallen out' and wa sagain chained to the the tree.

That second night found me right back in the sweat box again. And here is a funny thing: the guards did not seem any meaner than usual in putting me back; it just semed a part of their way of doing things to either kill me in the sun of the day on the road or th torture in the night in the 'box.' It just looked like they had always been doing that.

I went to work again on the third day, determined that if I could work a little bit easier during the day I might "make it" and miss the box at night. And I did make it—for a few hours. But I didn't know all of the tricks of the chain gang.

Shortly before noon we were all working. Some were singing, some were whispering to each other, and some, like myself, were cursing the hot sun, the work, the courts, and everything else while keeping an eye on the whip boss to see when a pick-swing could be missed and gotten away with. All of a sudden I heard two shots and felt a cigarette stump knocked out of my mouth. A third shot and I grabbed at my leg—it was shot through. I was so surprised that I did not even have time to turn around and see who was shooting.

As I bent over my leg I heard one of the 'captains' call out and ask the other one what was the matter.

"Nothing but a N---- trying to get away!", the man who had shot me replied. The other prisoners were as surprised as I was; all of them had seen us all working there as "nicely as ever." Even the guard himself didn't seem to have the face to stick to the whole lie he had made up; when he was asked who had tried to escape, he uncertainly pointed to THE FELLOW NEXT TO ME!

When the commotion died down, they took me back to the tree and chained me there, for the THIRD DAY IN A ROW—AND WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT MY LEG! I lay there in the sun and suffered the entire rest of the day until evening, and the only attention I got was a promise that 'Oh, H---, Cap'n Gormond will look at it tonight."

NEGRO BEATEN, REPUDIATES HIS COURT STAND

Ft. Lauderdale Police Slugged Boy—Flees After Release

By Jack Jameson

(Special to the Daily Worker)

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., May 15.—A brutal beating after two weeks in jail forced David Butler, Negro, age 17, to promise to turn State evidence against the Negro Communists imprisoned here, on a charge of "vagrancy"

After city police and Broward County deputies attacked David Butler in Sheriff Walker Clark's office, some striking him with their fists and others hitting him with blackjacks, the Sheriff asked the young Negro:

"Who do you want on your side, me or the lawyer—and if you say the lawyer, I'll kill you."

At the preliminary hearing which the International Labor Defense finally won for the illegally held Negroes, Butler astonished his fellow prisoners by announcing that he did not wish to be represented by W. Dow Woodward, attorney for the ILD. Immediately after the hearing was adjourned, Butler pleaded "guilty" to the "vagrancy" charge and Judge Anderson, obviously pleased, withheld sentence David Butler went straight to his home and wrote the following note, which he left with friends:

"Dear Lawyer: This is David Butler writing that the police and deputies made me say I don't want you to be my lawyer. They hit me with blackjacks and Mr. Bob Clark told me he wants me to say things against the rest of us. I am leaving town so that I won't have to do this. From David Butler."

Margaret Bailey, Secretary of the ILD for Florida, stated: "We do not blame David for fleeing the city. He is only a youngster. Two weeks in jail did not break his sprit and it was a brutal beating that forced him to plead guilty. We hope wherever he is he will obtain those constitutional rights denied him in Fort Lauderdale. We commend him for his refusal to testify for the State."

Jacksonville, Fla., Florida Times-Union
September 27, 1933

Fewer Prisoners

TALLAHASSEE, Sept. 26, (AP)—Florida's prison population decreased by four during August, and totalled 3,547 on September 1.

The Prison Bureau's monthly report showed 72 prisoners were received during August, and 76 went out, 66 by expiration of sentence, eight by escaping, one by pardon and one by death.

There are 1,389 white men and 25 white women in the prison system. The negro population is 2,027 male and 106 female

Why Are G-Men In Florida?

CHIEF "G-Man" Hoover is down in Florida, running around like a "chicken with his head cut off", trying to apprehend the dastardly criminals who kidnaped Jimmy Cash. Federal agents are swarming like bees around a hive.

All of this activity is being engaged in by the G-Men, who have no legal authority to act since no Federal law is known to be violated. There is no evidence that the kidnaper transported the victim across state lines.

The G-Men, with the approval of the Department of Justice, can participate in a case which is clearly outside of their jurisdiction, while they refused to investigate the kidnap-lynching case of Claude Neal which was definitely within their scope of authority.

In the Neal case the victim was apprehended in Alabama and transported into Florida. In the Cash case, so far as is known the boy or his body is still in Florida.

Thoughtful Americans of all races have emphasized the fact that until Americans make life safe for even the most humble, the life of no American can be safe. Kidnaping and other crimes of violence will continue until law enforcement officers respect the law by applying the same rules to all classes of citizens alike.

So long as G-Men wink at mob murderers, they will have to tear their hair while anxious white parents moan for the return of their children who have been snatched by other white men, who have learned not to respect the law because they escaped punishment when they murdered innocent colored men.

Arcadia, Fla., Arcadian
October 27, 1933

NEGRO FUGITIVE ARRESTED LAST WEEK AT LIMESTONE

Quincy Thomas, colored, who has been sought for several months by county peace officers on a warrant charging him with assault with intent to kill, was arrested at Limestone last week by Sheriff J. E. Albritton and Deputy Lloyd Holden. Thomas lived at Nocatee and the object of his wrath was a Nocatee colored woman. He is now in jai awaiting trial

Birmingham, Ala. News
June 20, 1938

How Sensationalism Can Alter True Pictures

One of the biggest problems of honest newspaper reporting is to present an accurate picture without letting the naturally sensational elements of an incident distort the background. And that is one of the hardest problems for the newspaper reader.

News, of course, is that which turns from the commonplace. News is itself often a sensational incident against a commonplace background. Readers should remember this when they read the papers. Sometimes they don't.

There are some newspapers, few of them in the South, however, that cater to the sensational and that seek to make a commonplace background as lurid as some isolated incident that happened to color the local landscape.

A Birmingham man was in Miami the day Franklin McCall, the 21-year-old kidnaper of the Cash child, was brought into the Courthouse. A crowd of curious persons were standing in the corridors, seeking a glimpse of the prisoner and the famous G-men.

"The people were standing around talking," the Birmingham man said. "They were saying: 'Isn't it a shame for a fine-looking boy like McCall to get himself into all that trouble?' "

The visitor heard such expressions as these:

"And McCall's not much more than a boy! What a pity!"

"How could he do it? He doesn't look like a criminal. Poor devil! He'll sit in the chair."

Newspaper photographs were taken of the crowd. The Birmingham man thought his picture was taken with the crowd, too. His natural interest caused him to watch the newspapers for the pictures. His own picture might be in them.

Several days later the Birmingham man bought a New York tabloid. He recognized the photograph of the crowded Miami Courthouse corridors. The caption over the picture read: "Lynch Violence Feared!"

That is the kind of sensationalism honest newspapers try to guard against. That is the kind of "news" display that embarrasses that great part of the daily press that must suffer in public condemnation for the acts of overzealous sensation-hunters.

THE PEPPER PARADOX.

Taking cognizance of criticism in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Florida's Senator Pepper has endeavored to reconcile the paradoxical position which he has taken on state's rights, as exemplified by his hearty approval of the use of G-men to solve the Cash kidnap-murder mystery and his undying opposition to their usage for similar purpose in the wake of lynchings.

The Florida statesman, whose renomination was made the heralded test of new deal popularity in the south, submits that kidnapings transcend state lines, that they constitute quite properly a field for federal intervention, whereas lynchings, involving residents of a constricted area and city or county officers, are strictly local and thus outside the federal constitutional realm.

The Daily News has long had its own ideas about this right of intervention in the sphere of mobbery. Are not victims of mobs first kidnaped before they are lynched? Does not the constitution of the United States guarantee the right to life, along with liberty and pursuit of happiness, and even more specifically declare for due processes of trial? When local officials fail to effectuate these guarantees, what are the responsibility and apparently the express charge of the Washington government?

But, skipping this line of argument for the time being, it is interesting to examine Senator Pepper's differentiation on a strictly geographical basis. Now that the Cash kidnap-murder has been solved, the evidence showed that its entire denouement occurred almost within a stone's throw of its inception. If ever there was a strictly local crime, this Florida atrocity must have been. Within the past few years, however, there are as matters of record at least two lynchings in which state lines were crossed, one of these acts of mobbery involving the boundary of the very state from which the explaining senator himself hails. No one recalls, though, that Washington intervened or was asked to intervene in either of these patently interstate manifestations of violence.

FLAYS TREATMENT OF CONVICTS; CUTS SENTENCE 10 YEARS

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Nov. 17 — (Special) — Sharply criticizing Florida's prison road camp system and announcing he was having an investigation made of the death of a man whom he recently sent to prison for 20 years at hard labor, Circuit Judge M. W. Lewis, white) in passing sentence here Tuesday on Henry Williams, who pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter, said that because of his knowledge of prison camps in this State, he was giving Williams a term of 10 years instead of the maximum he would otherwise have imposed.

Remarking that mistreatment of prisoners only serves to turn them against society, the jurist told Williams that if at any time during his sentence he wishes to communicate with him not to hesitate to do so, reminding him that the rights in prison were just the same as those of a white man.

Judge Lewis quoted the late former Governor Howell Cobb of Georgia as stating he would never have supported the law creating the penal system of that State had he been able to foresee the abuses of which it was capable and to which it would be subjected—and stated everyone should have the same just and fair ideas toward penal laws and institutions.

MAN HE SENTENCED DIED FROM ABUSE

Judge Lewis then followed up this statement by saying that some time ago he sentenced a man convicted in his court to 20 years at hard labor, and that shortly afterward this man became ill and died while working at a convict road camp. Statements subsequently made to him by the wife and sister of the prisoner warranted him, the jurist said, to request Attorney General G. C. Gibbs to make an investigation of the case, and he had received assurance from that official that he will do so.

In passing sentence, Judge Lewis told Williams, he conceived it to be his duty "to take into consideration the conditions under which you will perform your hard labor as a punishment for the crime you have committed.

"Were I convinced that the treatment you receive will be what it ought to be I would sentence you to 20 years at hard labor. But I set it at 10."

Williams pleaded guilty to shooting and killing Charlie Williams, a member of his own race and with the same surname but to whom he was not related.

CRITICISM CREATES WIDESPREAD INTEREST

The criticism by the Jacksonville judge of the penal system of the State created widespread interest and comment. The following day it brought a statement from Nathan Mayo, head of the Florida Prison System that prisoners at convict road camps receive good treatment and that the camps and the conditions prevailing at them are equal to those maintained in other Southern States, and superior to some.

It developed that the prisoner mentioned by Judge Lewis as having been sentenced to hard labor for 20 years and whose death soon afterward at one of the road camps was being investigated by the Attorney General, was Cleve Raulerson, white man, convicted of second degree murder.

According to Commissioner Mayo, who quickly came to the defense of the penal system he heads, Raulerson was not beaten or otherwise mistreated at the camp. He quoted prison physisians as saying Raulerson was suffering from a boil at the base of the spine and lung abcess.

The Commissioner stated Raulerson complained of being ill at the Perry Road Camp, and was examined by physicians who found nothing wrong with him and he was ordered back to work and continued to work until he collapsed and was taken to the hospital at the Raiford State Prison where he died. It was admitted, however, that after his collapse he was not sent to the hospital for about a week during which time he refused or was unable to eat.

In addition to his criticism of the State's penal system, Judge Lewis took occasion also in connection with his action in sentencing Williams to only half the prescribed prison term to criticize failure to make provision for the humane treatment of the insane. Insane persons he said, have been brought before him with their faces cut and bruised from beating them against the walls and windows of the county jail because no proper arrangements are made to prevent it while they are awaiting transportation to the asylum.

"Compared to justice," the jurist concluded, "there is nothing of value. Everything in this life is subordinate to it."

Crime - 1938

General.

THE SOUTH TODAY

Chain Gang Negroes

By JOHN A. LOMAX

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Editor's Note: John A. Lomax of Austin, Tex., is curator of folk-songs and honorary consultant in folk-music for the Library of Congress in Washington. For years he has traveled extensively in the South, seeking folk-songs and recording them on phonograph records in order that they may be preserved. Mr. Lomax is the author of a book recently published, Cowboy Ballads.

Recently, in the auditorium of the Press club building of Washington, after I had played some phonograph records of Negro work songs I had made for the Library of Congress, a woman said to me:

"They were so pathetic, so like the singing I have just heard in Florida — Negro chain gangs, you know. I can still see those poor Negro men chained together by a chain running from one leg to another. And, just think," she went on, in tones of horror, "at each end of a line of these working men a guard sat on his horse with a shotgun in his hands."

As it happened, I had recently come from a week's stay at the Florida penitentiary. Afterwards, I had traveled the entire length of the state visiting the gangs of Negro convicts at work on the public roads. I had never seen two men chained together. I had never seen a chain of any sort. Whatever Florida's past record, under the present management, a guard who uses an oath to any convict, black or white, is instantly discharged. The men at work on the road gangs, chosen after an examination by a physician, looked physically fit. I saw no instance of brutal treatment. I heard of none.

* * *

Visits Many Prisons

During the past two years I have visited the Negroes confined in the penitentiaries of the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia—the men inside the walls as well as the men at work on the public roads. I have carried letters either from the governors or prison commissions of each of these states with instructions that permitted me to see and talk with the convicts. In many cases I have been left alone with the convicts for hours—in the dining room, the chapel, the hospital and even in the execution room, where I could have quiet for recording Negro songs.

All day on many Sundays and once an entire week behind the prison walls, I have been alone with the men. I have not seen chains of any kind except in rare instances when a road gang convict wore a chain, usually strapped around his waist.

"Why?" I asked a guard.

"Well, you will notice that the chain is so arranged that when he starts to run, it will fall around his legs, wrap his ankles and slow up his speed. We never put this contraption on a man except to keep him from running away."

At the penitentiary at Memphis, Tenn., I noticed a number of Negro convicts each wearing a light two-foot chain riveted into a clasp around his ankle. To keep the chain from dragging, each man had wrapped the chain about his ankle and stuffed the end into his shoe.

"These men work on the highways that run through thick underbrush," the guard told me. "They are runaways. It is easy enough for a convict to slip away into the woods when the men are building a road through a dense forest. Today, as you see, it is raining. We have them inside shelling peas."

And that is what they were doing—shelling garden peas for the cannery. There were hogsheads full of fresh green peas ready for canning, and a lot of convicts, still wearing road chains, seated around a long table tearing off the soft green pods as the rain poured outside.

"But what is a chain gang?" I asked this specific question of a penitentiary warden. "Is it a group of convicts chained together?"

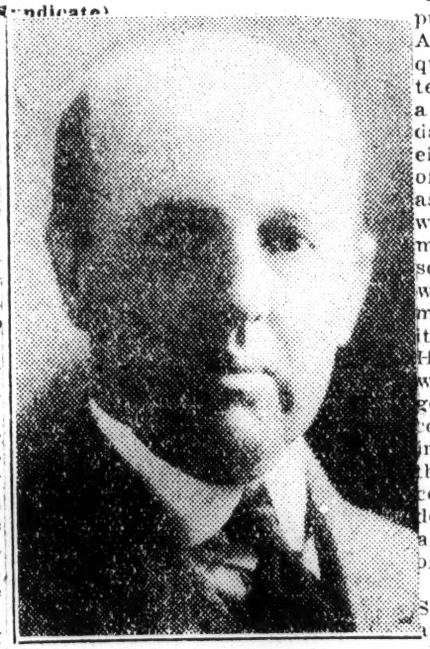
* * *

Maudlin Sympathy

"Of course not," he said. "How could men get any work done all chained together? A chain gang, as you hear the term used, means only a group of convicts working on the road or elsewhere outside of the penitentiary walls. It is a term that unhappily arouses a lot of prejudice and much misdirected and maudlin sympathy. Chain gang workers are freer, healthier and happier than those that live inside the walls. You never find one who does not prefer road work or farm work."

In visiting the Negro convicts of the nine Southern states, I discovered many other things new to me. I was making no investigation of what I saw—the conditions under which the men and women lived, their food and care, their treatment at the hands of the guards, etc. But I could not fail to get many impressions, all the more vivid because, until I made this trip, I had never seen a penitentiary or beer nside a jail. Naturally, then, I had many surprising experiences with he more than 20,000 black men and women I visited.

Many forgotten men were among them. Numbers had not received a letter or a visitor in ten years some not in twenty-five years. The few letters I read were from sisters, mothers, wives—never one from a father, brother, or from friends. Sometimes the letters contained postoffice money orders for small sums—twenty-five cents, nev-er more than a dollar. This money keeps the crap games going. Clear Rock, a Texas convict, boasted once to me he had won the entire capital of more than two hundred Negroes —less than thirty dollars. All this money had come from letters from home. Convicts are everywhere furnished tobacco, sometimes a week-ly amount in cash, to make purchases at the penitentiary commissary or in a store run by a convict.



JOHN A. LOMAX

The penal institutions in Arkansas, Texas and Missouri allow Negro women to visit their men at convict farms (no investigation is made as to whether or not they are wives). In some states provision is made for couples to be alone in private together for an hour or so. Prison wardens claim that this practice greatly lessens the danger of prison breaks among the blacks, which are spontaneous rather than the result of plots. Negroes do not trust each other. In speaking of the two races, one warden claimed that a dozen Negroes were easier to manage than one white convict.

* * *

Forms of Punishment

For punishment there is the solitary cell or the lash that the Negroes call the black heifer or Black Betty. I have seen Black Betties hanging by the door of the men's dormitory, a grim threat for broken prison rules. The lash is commonly about four inches broad, so as to burn rather than cut the flesh, and four or five feet long. But I saw no one whipped. I found no one in hospitals as a result of inhuman punishment. In Mississippi and in Arkansas, however, I heard of frequent whippings. A farm superintendent in Arkansas complained of a sore right shoulder because that day he and a helper had whipped eighty cotton pickers for grabbing off so much trash with the cotton as to injure its market price. Some wardens claim that whipping for misconduct is more humane than solitary confinement on bread and water, that it subdues a rebellious man, and that, at the same time, it does not incapacitate a worker. He takes his whipping and goes on with his job. The practice comes and goes in different states. Once very common in Texas, whipping is now infrequent. Everywhere I found that whites as well as blacks receive identical punishment. In the deep South more Negro convicts are whipped because there are more of them.

As will be well understood in the South, the whites and Negroes eat and sleep in separate quarters, usually work in different groups, and hold separate religious services. One Sunday in the penitentiary at Richmond, Va., I was surprised when attending a chapel service to listen to a sermon by a Negro chaplain preached to an audience about equally Negroes and whites, who sat with an aisle between. The two chaplains, one white and one black, preach on alternate Sundays. Probably because they are more easily controlled, nearly all the road gangs I saw were made up of Negroes. Doubtless also, they have better training and more physical endurance for such labor. But I saw no examples of discrimination in food or quarters between the two races. In Mississippi and Arkansas, Negro trusties with high-powered rifles guard the other Negro convicts, white trusties guard the white convicts.

Frequently I watched gangs of field workers march in at nightfall. Every man then stripped, took a hot bath, put on clean clothes and ate supper. Quiet and to bed at 9, for daylight means breakfast. In the farm dormitories the lights are never turned off. In Louisiana the men sing a song, "Down in Angola, Angola, where the lights burn all night long." Otherwise, it was explained a convict with a private grudge could slip out of bed in the darkness and knife his enemy.

* * *

Clean Beds, Abundant Food

The beds were neat and comfortable and clean. No vermin. Everywhere the food was plain but abundant. My son and I ate it for months and thrived. Some of the farms run large dairies, raise hogs and cattle for meat; in one or two instances enough chickens are grown to serve eggs to all twice a week. On one Texas farm I found two convicts who called themselves "chicken men" since their duty was to care for a thousand or so white Leghorn hens.

While always well ventilated, the farm dormitories seemed in some instances overcrowded. A common practice was for the men to dash from their quarters headlong speed when the doors were opened in mornings for the march to the fields. But I saw no group forced to trot to the fields or to trot back at night.

Unfortunately, penitentiaries like institutions for the insane, reform schools, and other homes for social dependents, with officers appointed through political influence, have too few interested visitors. What goes on inside of such places is sometimes a grave reflection on organized society. Moreover, prison managements cannot know always what happens when inhuman guards are away with a gang of men. Guards are generally underpaid and sometimes are unable to live with their families. The work is brutalizing. Now and then terrible conditions come to light. According to my own observations, however, the managements of the Southern prison systems is certainly more humane and enlightened than it has been pictured.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
June 1, 1938

The Negro In Crime.

To The Observer:

It was indeed refreshing to note an article some time ago in The Observer under the caption, "Educator Urges Justice for Negro Race in South." It was also inspiring to know that some one has the courage and ethical strength of character to be willing to be quoted in the defense of a minority and defenseless group, the negro race.

The time has come, it seems, that the number of right thinking and Christian spirited people in the South of both races should be increased to inspire a real eagerness for a constructive program of race relations, and racial adjustments through which both races might be assured of the highest degree of protection under the laws, and conditions in which political freedom and economic security could be brought about.

Whereas we do not feel, as did this educator, that the race problem is a problem of the white race at the exclusion of the negro's effort, we do feel that, with the smallest concern and effort on the part of the white race, much could and would be accomplished. If the race problem is ever to be solved to any degree of satisfaction for both races there must be a solution on a common ground arrived at as a result of a mutual understanding growing out of the efforts of both races. These solutions and understandings necessary for harmonious relations can not be super-imposed upon the South by outside agencies but must come out of an open-mindedness and a willingness on the part of the South to remedy the prevailing situations. There are those "would-be optomists," who claim that there is interracial harmony and understanding in the South, but one would need only to look about himself to note the vast and appalling differences with respect to political freedom of the simplest form and economic security and opportunities for the normal and reasonable pursuit of happiness which should be granted every individual in our nation.

The old practice of granting the negro an inferior opportunity for living up to the standards set for him by America, and ignoring his interests entirely, and excluding his representation in our economic and political planning have been some of the South's greatest mistakes. This lack of far-sightedness has resulted in keeping a considerable portion of the population of our Southland in the lower levels of life, and hampered to a great extent their education, social, cultural and economic development, and in like manner have hampered the progress of the whole South.

The negro, it must be admitted, has raised the crime level of our nation far out of proportion to his number. There was a statement in the papers making mention of this fact not long ago. This information was given out to the public without any statement giving the causes of this regrettable fact. Crime on the part of the negro is a result coming from causes created by a multitude of natural and preventable circumstances, many of which are traceable to depravities of political, economic and cultural advantages. If a survey were made it would doubtless show that the criminals in the negro race come almost entirely from those in the lowest brackets of economic and educational levels.

Since the annual cost of crime in this country has reached staggering proportions, and since it is found that the negro is making more than his share in contributing to this crime wave, it seems only logical but imperative that some constructive and basic program be undertaken with reference to the negro to decrease this high crime wave.

Before any constructive program could get under way some questions like the following would have to be answered as to the cause of crime: (1) What are the living conditions in which the masses of the negro population find themselves? (2) Upon what economic level do most negroes have to live? (3) What are the educational and cultural opportunities for development of ethical character among negroes? (4) Are these opportunities commensurate with the demands made by present day needs? (5) To what extent are negroes permitted a normal participation in their local governments? (6) Are they allowed a chance proportionate with their abilities to have a hand in city and State governments? (7) To what extent does the negro enjoy protection by the law from his oppressors? (8) Are there opportunities for free-enterprise for entering fields of service which their abilities warrant? (9) What recreational and avocational facilities are available for developing "worthy use of leisure?"

Living conditions: In practically all of the cities of the South the masses of the negroes live in very unwholesome locations from standpoints of health, and convenience and beauty. The homes in which most of them live are poorly lighted, poorly ventilated, and poorly constructed with reference to plumbing and artificial lighting, etc. The streets and alleys along which these houses are located are very inadequately lighted, if lighted at all. These aspects produce a very unfavorable bases upon which to create a home life that makes for good citizenship. Many of the houses, tenant houses, have leeky roofs allowing a great portion of the rain to enter, thus creating a dampness and foul odors which become permanent due to the poor ventilation and lighting. Under these distressing physical condition, dirt and all manner of disease which sap the vitality of human beings find breeding places. These loathsome environments have a destroying influence upon all that which is noble and good and beautiful born in the lives of the young negro boy and girl.

C. E. BOULWARE.

Concord.

DUSTIN' —*off the*— NEWS

— By —

LUCIUS C. HARPER

IT WAS BARNUM WHO GAVE US THE POLICY GAME

IN ALMOST every city, comprising a population of 15,000 or more of our people, there is a numbers game in operation. These digit enterprises thrive by virtue of the fact that daily papers furnish the results through publication of market reports such as Butter and Eggs and the U. S. Treasury totals. This is commonly known as "Clearing House." Some numbers bankers compute their results on the pari-mutuels at race tracks.

The numbers game pays off on a "hit" of the solid figure, running in the hundreds such as 590 or 732, ect., and is very rarely designated by a name, whereas "policy," the sister to it, uses the three separate digit system, such as 5-32-26 or other numbers as the players choose from 1 to 76. Each "wheel" as the business is referred to, operates under a certain title, viz, "Gold Bug," "Old Reliable," etc., and printed slips of varied colors display two rows of numerals—twelve in each row—denoting the results of the days' "drawing."

The numbers game requires less office equipment to operate, and is not burdened by exposing itself publicly through distributing "result slips" as in "policy," because the daily press renders this service unknowingly through its financial pages.

A three numeral combination is known as a "gig." A player can wage from one cent to his limit, but usually all plays over $2 cause a little nervousness at the "wheel" because of the huge odds offered should it "hit."

How the word "gig" was adapted to the policy game is a mystery. It just came about, and that explains that, for the word has such an aristocratic background to be enmeshed in the guile of a racket. Chauncer, earliest poet of English literature, who antidates Shakespeare, used the word "gig" several centuries ago and variously explained it as a squeaking noise or a rapid movement. It has other applications to fish-hooks, birds feathers, a light carriage with one pair of wheels, a row-boat and a rotary cylinder. When it fell from grace, nobody knows, and in fact, nobody cares.

Edwin C. Hill, who writes a daily column in the Hearst papers under the title: "Human Side of the News," stated recently that the policy game was originated by a brakeman by the name of Al Adams in 1889 who climbed down off the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad to peddle his digits among the unworthy of New York. He arose to great heights socially and financially, Mr. Hill says, and finally blew his brains out, after serving a prison sentence.

Mr. Hill cited the life of Adams to contradict the statement made by Prosecutor Thomas E. Dewey that policy had been known to New York for only 20 years.

We regard Mr. Hill as one of the best columnists of his day and time, but we fear on this item he didn't go far enough back into the records to sustain his point.

We are quite sure that long before Al Adams was born, policy was being played as one of the many lotteries that swept the country as a mania way back in 1829.

Phineas Taylor Barnum, father of the Barnum and Bailey circus, conducted a policy wheel as far back as 1829 in Bethel, Conn. He deviated from the Chinese lottery method and originated a system of his own which is almost a duplicate of the same old game today. Only Barnum selected the year of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, 1776, from which to draw his numerals. He split the figure, starting from the number 17 and ending at 76, which with the exception of the first unit remains the plan upon which the game is drawn today.

Barnum ran afoul of the best spirit of the community; his store was boycotted and the law was constantly harassing him to close up his nefarious enterprise. He marked his daily drawings on a huge board outside of his store as a "result sheet" for those who had played the game. Barnum, out-of-step with the community spirit, failed in business and moved to Danbury, Conn., where he started a weekly paper, "The Herald of Freedom." He libeled those who opposed lotteries in no uncertain terms, and finally landed in prison to do some regretting. Connecticut, rather Puritanical in those times, saw that Barnum was determined to keep policy alive, made it so hot for him that he left for New York.

Here in 1834 he began his career as a showman by purchasing and exploiting an aged slave woman, Joyce Heth, whom he pawned off as the nurse of General George Washington. Mrs. Heth was actually 70 years old, but wrinkles and feebleness betrayed her age and the humbug went over without uestion. Barnum said she was 160 years old.

There are Chicagoans who date the policy game beyond the time of Al Adams. The late Sparrell Scott who made fires for Mrs. Abraham Lincoln in the old Grand Pacific hotel in this city many years prior to 1889, often spoke of policy playing among the bellboys.

The game was very much alive in 1894, according to a Chicago attorney, William E. Lilly, who came to Chicago at that time to earn school funds. John "Mushmouth" Johnson and a Chinese conducted a type of lottery which later led into a political fight that resulted in Edward Green, one of the first colored legislators, introducing a bill and having it passed that made policy playing a felony in Illinois. The fight grew out of rivalry between Bob Motts and Johnson on political differences which spelled doom to policy for a while.

"Policy Sam" Young was the major domo in the policy racket for a long time during this era, and held on until his death a few years ago. He came through the Motts-Johnson tirade without a scratch, but did it by his own system. He never permitted over 10 persons to be present at a "drawing," and moved his location each day. The present-day ceremonies resemble a classroom.

Crime – 1938

General

Clayton, Ala., Tribune
September 2, 1938

THEY WEREN'T FUGITIVES

For years now, all the critics, sincere and phoney, have been pointing more less dirty forefingers at the State of Georgia and saying: "Isn't the brutality shocking?"

You could go around this country of ours and when prisons were mentioned the Georgia chain gang system came in for an immediate condemnation from people who knew nothing, or less, about it. Not that there were not accasions of brutality.

But, have you seen the news from Philadelphia?

They cooked four convicts to death in Philadelphia. The nesw does not say if they cooked them well done or medium rare. But they cooked them just the same. It is such a horror story that one might go along the whole way and relate how the only water they could get was in the cell toilets. It required two days to bake the men to death. Not since they burned witches in Salem has there been as much downright barbarism in this country.

It is a bit more ironic it happened in The City of Brotherly Love.

In Georgia, at our very worst we have guards who beat men and who put them in sweat boxes. That was brutality of a severe sort. But to put four men in a cell and turn on the steam and keep it on until they baked to death is a new high in horror and inhumanity.

At least, our convicts were permitted to be fugitives. Had all this occurred in Georgia the nation would have echoed with shouts for vengeance and for Federal intervention. There would have been congressmen and senators hollering their heads off about it. All the best citizens would have been indignant. There would have been editorials in every newspaper published.

Yet, the cooking with steam of four convicts in The City of Brotherly Love seems to have attracted very little attention. The editorial writers are calm about it. The congressman are silent. The "best people" are making no demands for heads to drop in the basket.

Can it be that prison brutality is brutal only in Georgia?

It was one Robert Burns who made Georgia infamous by his book, "I Am a Fugitive From a Georgia Chain Gang."

He escaped from the Troup county gang. It's cleaner than most. And on the day Robert Burns took it on the lam, to speak in the vernacular, he was serving as water boy. They didn't even have him throwing a pick or shovel.

He wrote, or had ghosted for him, a very exciting book all full of the horrors. The chain gangs were bad enough. They were no worse than those in other states. They got the publicity and publicity gets around places. There was no defense at all for what brutality went on in the gangs. As far as I know no one ever attempted to defend it.

The trouble was with the guards. Many of the counties paid such low wages to guards they could hire only semi-moronic types who were very little better, if as good, as the men they guarded. Anyhow, it was brutal. But not as brutal as the water boy, Mr. Burns, would have his public believe.

Ed Rivers and the Legislature of Georgia have removed all the shackles from Georgia gangs. There is no more shackles in Georgia. The prison system has been modernized as has the educational and social legislative systems. That man has done a great job of advancing Georgia several notches in humanity, education and general progress. Before he has done with it you will find Georgia well off the bottom of the list. Which is where she was in home owners, [illegible]ation, in prison conditions and other features of a state's life when he took it over.

Well, what I started out to say was, it was better to have fugitives than to cook prisoners to death.

It is curious how prejudice runs. The anti-lynching bill is a case in point. No one defends lynching. Lynching is to be cured, and is being cured, by education.

It is the only major crime which is decreasing. All the others are on the increase.

Yet, to argue on the question is to find one's self in the predicament of the man who is asked: "Have you stopped beating yuor wife Answer yes no."

The anti-lynching bill was political sop and was entirely unconstitutional as its framers knew. In fact, I often have wondered why Negro leaders didnt' protest against it. It was intended to be a vote-getter and nothing else. It would have aroused passion, not allayed them.

While our economics may be in the red, the fact remains that brutality is brutality in any section. No differential can be found which will make it any less painful to be flogged in Georgia than in Massachusetts. Certainly, it is just as horrible to be burned to death in Philadelphia as any place else. There was a Negro burned to death in Georgia not so long ago. It was a shocking, inexcusable crime. He was unconscious during the burning and at its outset.

The four men in Philadelphia required two long days in which to die slowly and horribly.

They are permanently dead. Probably they would prefer to be fugitives from a Geargia chain gang.—Ralph McGill in The Atlanta Constitution.

THE CRIME WAVE

PREVALENCE OF TERRIBLE CRIMES in many sections of the nation as reported in bold type on front pages of newspapers indicates a situation that is nothing short of alarming. Hardly had a sigh of relief been drawn following an apparent adjustment of European affairs that threatened to bring all nations into another world war, than racial clashes and the taking of lives in a most atrocious manner, involving members of both racial groups, developed with a fury that surpasses crime waves of any other time in recent years.

Crime, regardless as to the perpetrators, should be punished in as strict measures as the law prescribes. When men resort to mob rule, defying all authority and orderly procedure, only additions to the already too large a group of criminals results. With the efficiency of law enforcement officers and with the certainty of punishment for persons found guilty of crimes, especially where the defendants are members of the Negro racial group, there is positively no just excuse for a group of irresponsible hoodlums forming a posse and upon the apprehension of the first creature acting in a suspicious manner, destroying his life. It is sufficiently difficult for defendants to establish their innocence in courts where the most fair and orderly procedure is employed, and then for a disorderly mob, exhibiting all sorts of motives, breaks loose in any community, without efforts at restraint or subsequent punishment by authorities, other men and institutions may well exhibit alarm, for their safety is at the mercy of just

such an element.

One consoling phase of the deplorably alarming situation is the voiced condemnation as expressed by fair-minded leaders of the South, especially through the press. It is made plain by many editorial writers of prominence and influence, that law abiding white people are ashamed of the riotous conduct of mobbists of their racial group, and it appears from recent editorials concerning depredations of the mobs that many white men of thought are beginning to favor the enactment of laws by our Federal government that will serve to put a certain stop to lynchings in our land.

Unfair and unkind elements of our populace are oftimes inclined to brand condemnation of lynching as condonation of crime. Such is not the case, and if such should be true, even in the minutest detail, the courts of our land are sufficiently organized to counteract such sentiment. Crime, regardless as to where and by whom staged should be punished, but that punishment should be meted out by duly authorized persons and following the establishment of an unquestionable guilt of the accused made clear in a court of justice.

Reports of crimes during recent months tell of atrocities involving sex matters, staged by whites as well as Negroes. The mere fact that white men commit crimes does not serve to mitigate the gravity of Negro criminals, but the widespread condemnation of Negroes on the part of certain white people upon the appearance of bold headlines telling of a Negro having committed some crime, and the maltreatment of innocent and inoffensive Negroes by mobbists, together with destruction of their property and schoolhouses, as was true in the Georgia lawlessness last week, are thoroughly unjust. Law abiding Negroes who would have peace and harmonious relationship prevail between the races at all times, are in no more position to prevent the commission of criminal acts on the part of irresponsible and conscienceless criminally inclined members of their racial group than are members of other races. Especially is such true when the fact prevails that ninety-nine percent of the law enforcement forces continually remain in the hands of the white man.

Place the punishment of Negroes charged with crimes under laws enacted by our Federal government if such will offer assurance of any more certain punishment, but carry along with such legislation the punishment of those who defy authority, disregard lawful and orderly procedure, and exhibit a total disregard for human life and property. Then, and not until then, will the lives and property of all men, white as well as black, enjoy any sort of security.

WAR ON CRIME EYED BY GROUP

Means Of Reducing Toll Are Considered At Meeting On Prison Reform

Crime prevention stole major attention from prison reform at a meeting last night at the Tutwiler Hotel. Under the chairmanship of Tarleton Collier, Atlanta newsman, the session was scheduled to have discussed means of improving prison conditions.

Restoration of the whipping post and proper rearing of juveniles were among the measures urged by speakers as most needed to reduce the South's crime toll. More pay for prison guards and wise probation and parole systems were among the ideas for improving penal institutions.

Dave Birmingham, Alabama Convict Department official, urged return of the whipping post which, he believed, "would do more to banish crime among juveniles than any other thing."

He defended corporal punishment for unruly prisoners, saying that a criminal fears physical punishment above all things. He urged a permanent parole board, entirely free of political influence; a suspended sentence law for first offenders and an all-time Christian educator in all state prisons.

Enlightened probation and parole systems, patterned after the federal system, were advocated by Richard A. Chappell, supervisor of the federal probation system. Such systems, he said, should include provisions of jobs for parolees, strict supervision during parole and cooperation of local social agencies. He recommended that all persons leaving prisons should leave by way of parole so they could be kept under post-prison supervision.

"When we realize that 95 per cent of the men who enter prison sooner or later come out to live as somebody's neighbor, thoughtful people will agree that it is important to try to improve or try to fit the man to be better instead of following a program of overwork, poor food, unsanitary quarters and a routine of regimentation and repression," he said.

Prevention of crime by proper training of youth was urged by Miss Helen Fuller, of the U. S. Department of Justice, who showed that a relationship exists between the age at the time of first crime and the incidence of "repeaters."

"The problem of crime is essentially a problem of youth," she declared. "Last year 57 per cent of all arrests in the country were of persons under 25 years of age. The most significant fact that has been uncovered is that the factor that determines whether the man will be a success or failure after he leaves prison is his age at the time of his first crime."

Alabama prison officials make every effort toward keeping prisoners occupied for the dual purpose of maintaining discipline and making the prisoners earn their keep, Mrs. C. H. Thrasher, state prison inspector, told the group. She criticized sharply the Alabama system of only two terms of court in some rural counties, which, she said, sometimes keeps a man in jail for a year on charges on which he is sometimes acquitted.

Gov. Graves' parole record was vigorously defended by Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, head of the State Department of Archives and History, who cited the case of Roy Dickerson, formerly one of Alabama's notorious outlaws, in support of her defense.

Stating that she taught Dickerson in a Sunday School class when he was a boy, she recalled his long list of crimes and said that since he was paroled several years ago he has "made good" in Mobile and now holds a responsible position there.

Our Homicide Record

The homicide record for Atlanta during 1932 is nothing of which we should be proud. We yet have more than thirty days to go and still we have brought our record up to seventy-five. This inglorious number is sufficiently large for us to claim it as our own because a sense of responsibility ought to make us feel called upon to prevent such if we can.

The first thing necessary is not merely to look forward to arresting people but to bring about those measures which will improve the homes of the people. We do not need any long dissertation on this. We only need to compare the total social results of two extremes here in our community—any alley to University Homes.

Someone may argue that University Homes has "different" people in it. But even there some sort of irregularities would arise but for organized, cooperative, supervised living in places which tend by their appearance to make people look upward and think elevated thoughts, or if they are inclined to even mild criminality, they know that under the circumstances they can't long indulge the tendency without danger of exposure and final loss in any one of several ways.

Better homes are not the only deterrents of murder but the development of such goes a long way towards discouraging it because better living carried with it the white light of publicity, the arch enemy of crime of any sort. It is the intensity of several criminal forces concentrated in dark corners that constitutes the greatest ally of crime

L. J. Hubert, Jr., Seized as Burglar

ATLANTA — Zack T. Hubert, Jr., 28, member of a nationally prominent family, was arrested in a white neighborhood and charged with burglary.

Hubert, who is a Morehouse College man, was carrying a brief case containing burglary tools, arresting police asserted. The defendant has worked for several insurance companies, and was known as a salesman here.

DEFENSE LAWYERS SAYS WORKERS WERE AFRAID TO TESTIFY

But Georgia Says Young WPA Employe Must Serve 2½ Years for Attack On White Foreman.

MACON, Ga., Dec. 8—(Special)—Despite sharp conflict in statements of prosecution and defense attorneys and the evidence submitted, as to what actually occurred, Norman Rivers, young WPA worker, has been sentenced to a prison term of two and a half years following his conviction of assaulting with intent to murder, his white foreman William Carter.

At the trial of the case before Superior Court Judge W. R. McClellen, defense attorneys declared that witnesses to the difficulty between the foreman and Rivers had been intimidated by the fear that if they testified for Rivers against their boss that they would lose their jobs, and both the trial judge and the jury were urged to take this alleged intimidation into consideration. The prosecution countered with the statement reports were curernt that the other laborers had to be restrained from themselves punishing Rivers for his alleged assault on the foreman. No testimony was presented, however, in substantiation of the alleged reports.

On the stand, the foreman, Carter, testified that after he had suspended Rivers for two days for alleged "loafing" he had returned and assaulted him. Rivers emphatically denied the accusation, stating that Carter abused and attacked him without provocation, and that in striking the foreman he acted only in self defense.

Atlanta Ga. Journal
October 27, 1933

Rivers Calls For Penal Charges Within 30 Days

Hearing Recessed After Strong Defense Of Prison Board

Governor Rivers Thursday renewed his invitation that any Georgian having any charges to make against the new state penal set-up file such complaint with him within the next thirty days.

"If there is anything wrong with the administration of the state's new penal laws," the governor said, "I want to find out about it if there are any defects in the laws that were passed by the last Legislature reforming the state prison system, I want to know that, too, so that I can recommend that the laws be amended."

Meanwhile the chief executive had recessed for one month a public hearing that started at the Capitol Wednesday and occupied the greater part of the day.

Judge George A. Johns, veteran member of the State Prison Commission and present State Prison and Parole Board, closed the hearing Wednesday with a strong defense of the record of the new board, created by the legislature early this year.

Bias Is Indicated

"I think this board should be given a chance to function, and ought not be stabbed in the back before it is a year old and able to walk alone," Judge Johns said.

He then read a record of paroles in the Muscogee, Atlantic and Brunswick judicial circuits, where criticism of the Parole Board had centered, and indicated either personal or political bias on the part of the presiding judges in these circuits.

Mayor William B. Hartsfield, of Atlanta, took a prominent part in the hearing and complained of the refusal of the state board to furnish the Atlanta Police Department with the names and identification of Atlanta prisoners who either escape or are paroled. Members of the board and Governor Rivers promised the mayor more

Mayor Hartsfield also complained of "the parole of criminals to each other" and urged the parole board to investigate the men to whose custody paroled men are assigned. He cited three cases in which negro prisoners had been turned over to other negroes with criminal records.

State Senator Paul Lindsay, of Atlanta, author of the prison reform bills, took sharp issue with Mayor Hartsfield and charged him with "an unwarranted denunciation of the state penal system."

Record Reviwed

Clem Rainey, member of the parole board, submitted a written statement reviewing the record of the board since it was created last April. His report showed 1,398 releases from prison and 38 revocations of paroles. Of the total releases 346 had served their minimum terms and were turned out automatically, 663 were serving misdemeanor sentences and 388 were serving felony sentences, the report showed. Of the 663 misdemeanor paroles, 457 were on probationary orders of the trial judges, Rainey said.

Out of 257 paroles in Fulton County, 245 were turned out by probationary orders of the trial judges, the report stated.

Governor Rivers read a letter from the foreman of the Muscogee County grand jury, which had recommended repeal of the new parole laws. In the letter the grand jury foreman said the jurors did not have any specific information as to abuse of the parole system, and would not be represented at the hearing.

Report on Escapes

Taking up complaints against laxity of the new State Board of Penal Administration, A. M. Anderson, secretary of that board made a report on escapes. He said that of the 1,000 prisoners at the Tattnall Prison, 29 have escaped since April 15 and 25 had been recaptured. Of the 5,000 prisoners in county and highway camps, 307 have escaped and 149 are still at large.

J. G. Glover, superintendent of highway camps, reported that 46 of the 600 prisoners in five highway camps have escaped this year, and all had been recaptured by state or federal officers. Four were were killed and 17 wounded in escape attempts, he added.

James P. Davis, member of President Roosevelt's commission on the reorganization of prison industries, praised the new Georgia set-up and its record to date.

On Way To Chair, Six Negroes Show Whites How To Die

REIDSVILLE, Ga., (Special)—Six Negroes, convicted of murder, went to their deaths singing "The Lord Is Coming" and reciting the Lord's Prayer today in the biggest mass execution in Georgia's history, while a white man, also convicted of murder, was granted a last-minute reprieve.

The state claimed the lives of Jim Williamson, Charles Rucker, Raymond Carter, Arthur Perry, Arthur Mack and Willie Russell.

When the second man, Arthur Mack, entered the death chamber he turned to the prison warden and asked: "Can I Pray?"

The warden nodded and the man knelt before the square-backed chair and prayed aloud for two minutes. After the final 'Amen' he arose, turned and sat in the chair unassisted, and repeated the Lord's Prayer until the jolt of current hit him.

Dickerson, the white man, who had expected to die with the others until early today when Gov. E. D. Rivers granted the stay, spent the night in silence brooding in his cell, while the six doomed Negroes made the prison ring with their singing

Crime—1938

Georgia.

Negro Prowler Sh... In Getaway Attem...

E. J. Hamilton, Macon Burglar, Felled by Bullets as He Tries to Flee

E. J. Hamilton, Macon young Negro known to police as the "phantom prowler" who terrified suburbs for many months, last night was reported in a good way to fulfill a boast he would escape prison or die in the attempt.

He lay at the point of death in a Dublin hospital, suffering pistol shot wounds suffered in an escape attempt at the Treutlen county public works camp near Soperton last Friday afternoon.

Hamilton is under sentence of 63 years, 40 of them imposed here last year by Superior Judge W. A. McClellan when he pleaded guilty to a series of burglaries.

He is Paralyzed

Bullets were reported to have struck Hamilton in the stomach and back, one of them lodging in his spine. He underwent an emergency operation and is reported paralyzed from the hips down.

J. G. Glover, state supervisor of prisoners, identified Hamilton yesterday as a prisoner with "a long record as an agitator."

Hamilton's Macon attorney reported that not even members of the Negro's family are permitted to see him in the hospital.

A Laurens county convict identified as John Bell also was under treatment at the hospital after he was shot in an attack on one of the camp guards last Friday.

In Atlanta, Glover said Hamilton tried to escape several times before and just a few weeks ago "got out and was captured after we chased him half a day and all night."

Glover said his latest escape attempt was while supper was being served at the Treutlen camp. He said the count showed one man short after supper and the gates to the camp were closed and a search was made.

"Hamilton tried to break through one of the gates and the guard on duty there shot him," Glover said. "We took him to the hospital where he is reported getting along as well as could be expected."

Glover said he did not have a report on the Bell shooting, other than to confirm that the prisoner had been wounded in a fight with a guard.

Prison records gave Hamilton's age as 20. He was sentenced from Bibb county last March, getting 40 years for burglaries and auto theft. He escaped the Soperton camp April 13 and while out was caught in Glenn and sentenced to an additional five years for burglary.

NEGRO SHOT AFTER LAURENS SIT-DOWN

Officials Quiet About Prison Camp Strike; Another Negro Shot at Treutlen

(Telegraph's Georgia News Service)

DUBLIN, Aug. 1—A sitdown strike of 13 convicts at a Laurens county prison camp, and serious wounding of a Negro prisoner when he attacked a guard, was revealed here today.

The Negro, listed by Secretary Walter Daniel of the Laurens board of commissioners as John Bell, was shot by the guard as he broke to run after attempting to hit a guard with a shovel. Daniel said he understood. Bell is in a serious condition at a hospital here with a pistol wound through the pelvis.

The strike at the Cadwell camp started last Thursday, and the 'mooting occurred Friday. How the strike was ended was not disclosed but the entire 13 went back to work Friday morning.

Bell was one of the 13, and had returned to work with the others when he attacked the guard.

News of the strike and the shooting had been carefully guarded by prison camp officials.

Another prisoner was shot at the Treutlen county camp, also Friday. He was E. J. Hamilton, Macon Negro desperadoo, known as the "Phantom Prowler." He was critically wounded in the back by a pistol shot when he tried to escape, and was not expected to live, it was said that today at a hospital here where he was brought.

News of that shooting likewise was kept secret.

2 NEGRO CONVICTS SHOT BY GUARDS

One in Laurens Camp Wounded in Attack on Official.

DUBLIN, Ga., Aug. 1—(AP)—A Treutlen county highway camp guard shot and seriously wounded a negro convict who was under sentences totaling 68 years for a series of robberies, it was larned here today.

J. G. Glover, state supervisor of prisoners, identified the wounded man as E. J. Hamilton, of Macon, and reported he had "a long record as an agitator."

The convict was treated at a Dublin hospital.

A Laurens county convict identified as John Bell also was under treatment at the hospital after he was shot in an attack on one of the camp guards last Friday.

In Atlanta, Glover said Hamilton tried to escape several times before, and just a few weeks ago "got out and was captured after we chased him half a day and all night."

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NEGRO IS HELD IN THEFT CASE

Storekeeper Says Man Walked Off With Pinball Device

City detectives last night arrested a Negro listed as Amos Phelps, 23, of 225 Mahone street, in connection with the theft of a pin ball machine Sunday night.

Detective G. C. Britt said he was told the Negro took the machine away from a store at 115 Middle street after complaining to the storekeeper that he had won and the machine failed to pay off.

He walked out of the store with the machine in his arms, officers were told.

He was booked on a charge of loitering pending further investigation.

Detective L. B. McCallum and Detective Britt started an investigation. They have not found the machine.

Moultrie, Ga., Observer
August 19, 1938

COLORED MINISTER WRITES ON "LAW AND ORDER"

To the Moultrie Observer:

The crime wave in our county is largely due to the political system. The average voter goes to the poll to vote for the man that can say the most about what he will do to the Negro, if elected to office. Forgetting that he can only rise by the help he gets and in most cases his help comes from the Negro. Its true that we have in Moultrie some good colored people as well as bad, who seek to be law abiding people, and ask that the officers of law help them to make Moultrie a good city. Co-operation is the way to make any place good and safe.

I stated that the political system was largely responsible for the non-cooperation in curbing crimes. Nine tenths of the major crimes or crimes that are committed are known by some colored person, and will only give information concerning same under duress. And if we had some good colored peace officers in cities like Moultrie or the county, there would be less gambling, murdering, stealing and robbing among the Negro section.

But as long as men are placed in office and positions and votes because they are white and no consideration is given to their qualification we will be faced with these things.

I know men that are allowed to vote that can not read or write their name. But because they are white and no other reason. They do not own fifty dollars worth of anything.

I wonder how long will a government stand when it continues to go on that way. I was born and reared in this county. I think it is as good as any one in the United States. But some times the wrong men are in control, will not take interest in the colored citizens, won't even advise one right when he seeks advice. If the white leaders will not give us advice or cannot where are we to find it. Shortly after the World war I made application to register. The answer was "We have no ruling on Negroes registering." That is a type of the consideration we get.

I think more men should come to the rescue of our race, more consideration for our schools, our homes, our churches, our social and political welfare. I was good enough to be called to the colors in time of war, in time of peace. I should be free to help shape the destiny of our county. And thousands of others feel the same about the good old United States of America. When we reach and see men in that light we will solve the probelms that's destroying our upward march. Keep on calling on your people to help and we will be at your service.

From,
SIM L. LAWSON,
Crosland, Ga

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
August 26, 1938

ONE WORD MORE

By RALPH McGILL.

At Least Our Convicts Are Fugitives!

For years now, all the critics, sincere and phoney, have been pointing more less dirty forefingers at the state of Georgia and saying, "Isn't the brutality shocking?"

You could go around this country of ours and when prisons were mentioned the Georgia chain gang system came in for an immediate condemnation from people who knew nothing, or less, about it. Not that there were not occasions of brutality.

But, have you seen the news from Philadelphia?

They cooked four convicts to death in Philadelphia. The news does not say if they cooked them well done or medium rare. But they cooked them just the same. It is such a horror story that one might go along the whole way and relate how the only water they could get was in the cell toilets. It required two days to bake the men to death. Not since they burned witches in Salem has there been as much downright barbarism in this country.

It is a bit more ironic it happened in The City of Brotherly Love.

In Georgia, at our very worst, we have guards who beat men and who put them in sweat boxes. That was brutality of a severe sort. But to put four men in a cell and turn on the steam and keep it on until they baked to death is a new high in horror and inhumanity.

At least, our convicts were permitted to be fugitives. Had all this occurred in Georgia the nation would have echoed with shouts for vengeance and for federal intervention. There would have been congressmen and senators hollering their heads off about it. All the best citizens would have been indignant. There would have been editorials in every newspaper published.

Yet, the cooking with steam of four convicts in The City of Brotherly Love seems to have attracted very little attention. The editorial writers are calm about it. The congressmen are silent. The "best people" are making no demands for heads to drop in the basket.

Can it be that prison brutality is brutal only in Georgia?

Fugitive From A Georgia Chain Gang.

It was one Robert Burns who made Georgia infamous by his book, "I Am a Fugitive From a Georgia Chain Gang."

He escaped from the Troup county gang. It's cleaner than most. And on the day Robert Burns took it on the lam, to speak in the vernacular, he was serving as water boy. They didn't even have him throwing a pick or shovel.

He wrote, or had ghosted for him, a very exciting book all full of the horrors. The chain gangs were bad enough. They were no worse than those in other states. They got the publicity and publicity gets around places. There was no defense at all for what brutality went on in the gangs. As far as I know no one ever attempted to defend it.

The trouble was with the guards. Many of the counties paid such low wages to guards they could hire only semi-moronic types who were very little better, if as good, as the men they guarded. Anyhow, it was brutal. But not as brutal as the water boy, Mr. Burns, would have his public believe.

Ed Rivers and the legislature of Georgia have removed all the shackles from Georgia gangs. There are no more shackles in Georgia. The prison system has been modernized as has the educational and social legislative systems. That man has done a great job of advancing Georgia several notches in humanity, education and general progress. Before he has done with it you will find Georgia well off the bottom of the list. Which is where she was in home owners, in education, in prison conditions and other features of a state's life when he took it over.

Well, what I started out to say was, it was better to have fugitives than to cook prisoners to death.

It Is Curious, How the Politics Run.

It is curious how prejudice runs. The anti-lynching bill is a case in point. No one defends lynching. Lynching is to be cured, and is being cured, by education.

It is the only major crime which is decreasing. All the others are on the increase.

Yet, to argue on the question is to find one's self in the predicament of the man who is asked, "Have you stopped beating your wife? Answer yes or no."

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Certainly, it is just as horrible to be burned to death in Philadelphia as any place else. There was a negro burned to death in Georgia not so long ago. It was a shocking, inexcusable crime. He was unconscious during the burning and at its outset.

The four men in Philadelphia required two long days in which to die slowly and horribly.

They are permanently dead. Probably they would prefer to be fugitives from a Georgia gang.

Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
November 6, 1933

1,866 in County On Probation, Report Shows

A total of 1,866 persons in Fulton County were under probation with the ending of the fiscal year October 1, which number is 79 greater than a year ago, according to the annual report of the Fulton County Adult Probation office, released Saturday.

The report showed receipts of the office for the past 18 years have totaled $638,863.88. Receipts for the 1938 fiscal year were $82,750.20. This offers a good comparison with the first year shown, 1920, when the office received only $11,112.65. The office entered 1938 with $2,173.94, and it spent $83,914.30. With its $82,750 receipts, it ended the year with $1,009.90 in the bank.

During 1938, 995 probationers were discharged, 445 adjusted, 275 absconded, 137 were revoked and 1,920 probated. During the year 164 were reinstated, leaving the total probated at 1,756.

Of this number 1,035 were white and 721 negroes. The majority, or 702, were between 20 and 29 years old. The year's probation activities brings to 20,856 the number of persons probated by the county office for all time.

Leading offenses for which probationers were convicted were: Larceny, 279 cases; abandonment of minor children, 259 cases; violation of liquor laws, 154; intoxication, 151, and drunken driving, 105.

Atlanta Ga. Constitution
November 6, 1933

NEARLY $2,000,000 SAVED BY FULTON THROUGH PROBATION

Economy Calculated on Basis of Prisoners Costing $2.75 Each a Day.

Fulton county saved a theoretical $1,806,396.90 by releasing 1,756 adult prisoners on probation during the year ending October 1, a report by George Allen Maddox probation officer, disclosed yesterday.

Estimating the cost of each prisoner at $2.75 a day, the Maddox report said the 620,610 prisoner days saved amounted to nearly $2,000,000 more than the $16,935.60 cost of operation of the department.

The largest number on probation for any one month was September when the total was 1,866. From this figure, however, must be deducted holdovers of former years and reinstatement of discharged paroles.

Few Women Parolees.

Included among the 1,756 parolees were 956 white and 627 negro men. There were 79 white women and 94 negro women.

Of the total, 351 were from 16 to 19 years old; 702 from 20 to 29; 425 from 30 to 39; 195 from 40 to 49; 64 from 50 to 59, and 19 from 60 to 80.

Education of the parolees also afforded an interesting study.

College students steered clear of the parole office by almost six to one as compared with those who had no education. A total of 26 college men or women were on the lists as compared to 127 who had no schooling.

Those with a sixth grade education led the list with 467 entries; junior high school was second with 440; senior high school had 217. Intermediate grades from the second to the sixth grade ranged from 58 for the second grade to 170 for the fifth.

Length of Terms.

A tabulation of the length of sentences from which persons were probated showed that 1,088 of the 1,756 were sentenced to 12 months. The second largest number of probations were for six-month sentences and totaled 218.

Forty-one, however, had five to five years and five others had from five to ten years.

Although 1,756 probations were granted during the year, this is 234 short of the number listed for 1932 and 1933 when the peak mark was set with 1,990. A total of 20,856 probations have been granted since the system has been operative in the county, and all except 1,391 were made since 1918.

Probations for larceny increased with 279 for 1938 as compared with 246 for 1937. Abandonment of children probationers decreased from 259 for 1938 and 278 for 1937. Probations as a result of violation of the prohibition laws declined also. There were 154 for 1938 against 162 for 1937.

Intoxication probations also decreased with 151 for 1938 to 160 for 1937.

Violent Crimes.

Violent crime probations however were on the increase.

Probations for pointing a pistol at another for 1938 were set at 21 as against 15 for 1937, and assault to murder at 60 for 1938 and 34 for 1937.

Of the probations granted during the year, 1,414 came from criminal court of Fulton county; 306 from superior courts, three from out-of-town cases and 33 were made by agreement.

TWO NEGRO CHILDREN DIE IN CABIN FLAMES

AUGUSTA, Ga., Nov. 2.—(AP)—Two negro children were burned to death near here today in a fire which consumed a two-room cabin in which they had been left alone.

S. Herbert Elliott, of the coroner's office, listed the children as Annie Lee Watkins, 4, and Irene Hollomon, 2.

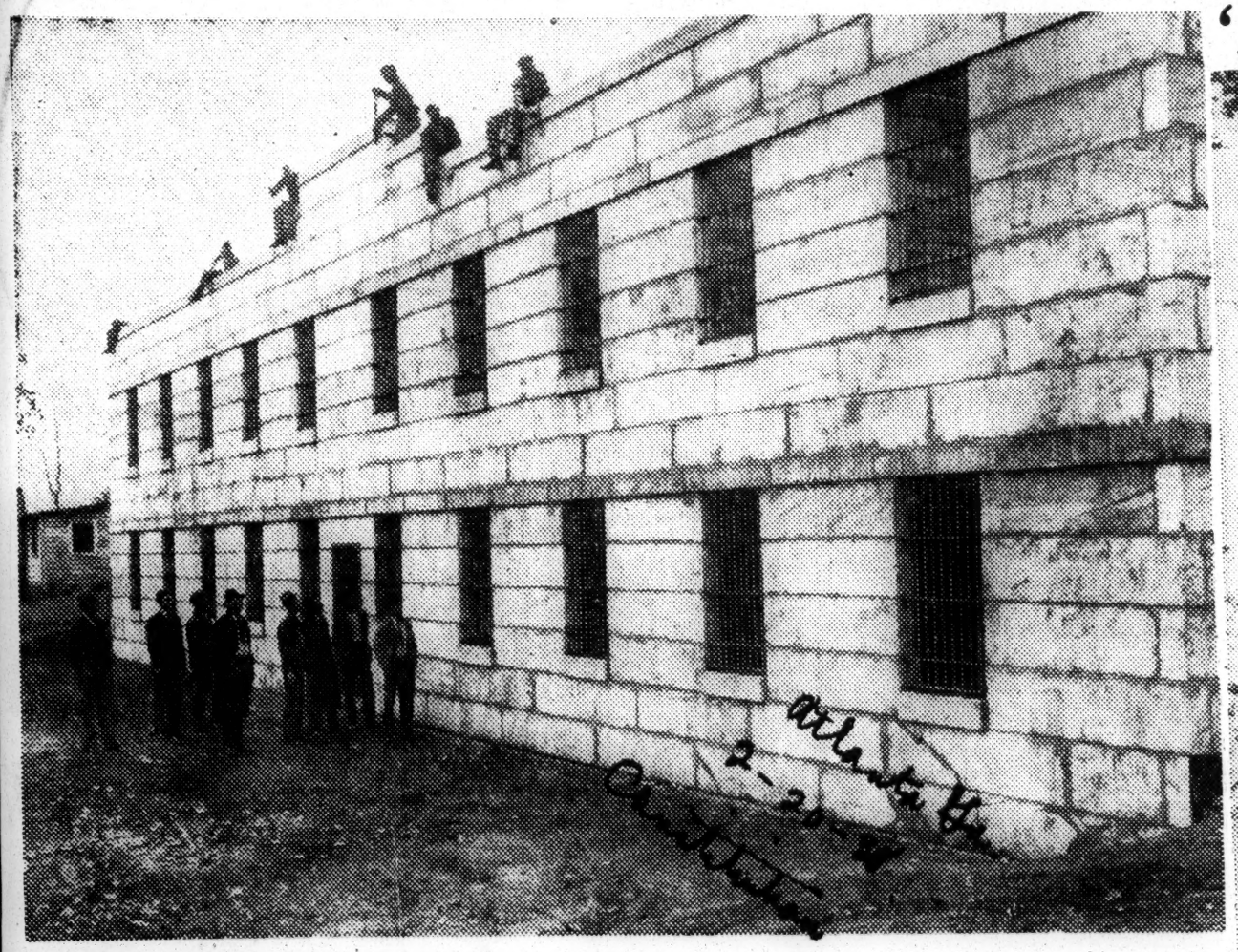
He said the mother of one of the children had left the two while she went to wash clothes nearby. The mother returned in time to see the cabin ablaze, the heat too intense for her to save the children.

An inquest was ordered.

Crime – 1938

Georgia
6

Pickens County To Abandon Antiquated Chain Gang Cages for Marble Prison 'Home'



Pickens county prisoners are shown here working atop the magnificent white Georgia marble structure which will house them within a few weeks, while officials inspect the stern exterior of the building.

PICKENS TO VACATE ANTIQUATED CAGES FOR MARBLE PRISON

$20,000 'Escape-Proof' Facilities To Be Ready Within Two Weeks.

JASPER, Feb. 18.—Pickens county's prisoners soon will move from rusted and antiquated iron cages to marble halls!

Keeping step with Georgia's movement for the improvement of prison conditions, Pickens county, within 30 to 60 days, will complete construction of a handsome $20,000 building of Georgia marble, designed to provide "escape proof" facilities almost equal to those of the state's "Alcatraz of the Piney Woods," near Reidsville.

And, in keeping with the state's official abandonment of the word "chain gang," along with the use of shackle and chain, lash and sweat-box, the new institution will be known as the Pickens county prison home—headquarters of the Pickens county works camp.

Going along down the line with the state administration, the new "prison home" will provide adequate facilities for the complete segregation of young and first offenders, from older, hardened criminals, as well as white from negro prisoners.

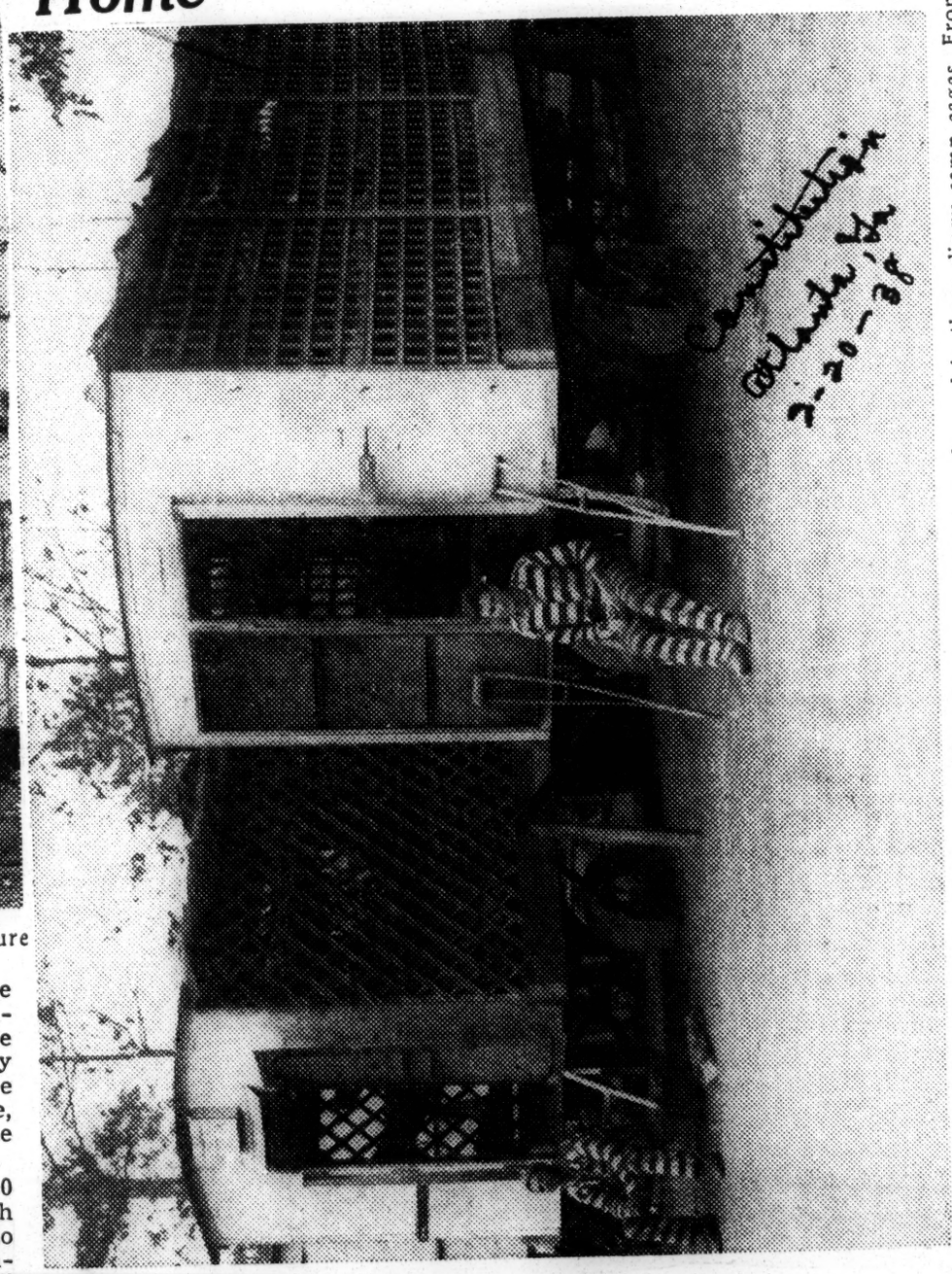
The new building will take the place of barred cages which have been in use in Pickens county the last 15 years—cages which provided but little protection from the elements—cages in which approximately 60 prisoners are now confined. The "prison home" will provide quarters for from 150 to 200 prisoners.

While the building is valued at approximately $20,000, its actual cost was only about $8,000, since white Georgia marble for its construction was contributed to the Pickens county commissioners by Colonel Sam Tate, president of the Georgia Marble Company at Tate, and former chairman of the State Highway Board.

Within its walls will be 3,200 square feet of floor space, which will provide room, in addition to cell blocks, for a spacious recreation room and adequate hospital quarters, as well as sleeping quarters for guards, and an office for Warden C. C. Killian. The building will be steam heated and electrically lighted, and modern sanitary fixtures will be provided for both white and negro prisoners.

In construction of the "prison home," every precaution has been taken to guard against successful breaks, and the building is as nearly "escape proof" as its builders could make it. Its doors are of tool steel, and hacksaw-proof bars were set in the walls during construction.

Floodlights will be in position outside the building, and only three exists will be provided for the entire structure, all controlled from one central point.



Prisoners in Pickens county, during the last 15 years, have been housed in these dingy camp cages. From these quarters, annroximately 60 prisoners will move soon into the structure shown in the picture at left.

White 'Black' Bandit Rob WPA Worker of $16

Two white bandits who blackened their faces to disguise themselves as negroes held up and robbed Joe Griffin, of 17 Fair street, S. E., of $16 in cash and a street car ticket on Fair street, near Washington street, shortly after last midnight.

Griffin said the bandits came out of an alley. One drew a pistol. The money represented a recently-cashed WPA check, he said, in reporting the holdup to police.

Crime – 1938

Georgia
6

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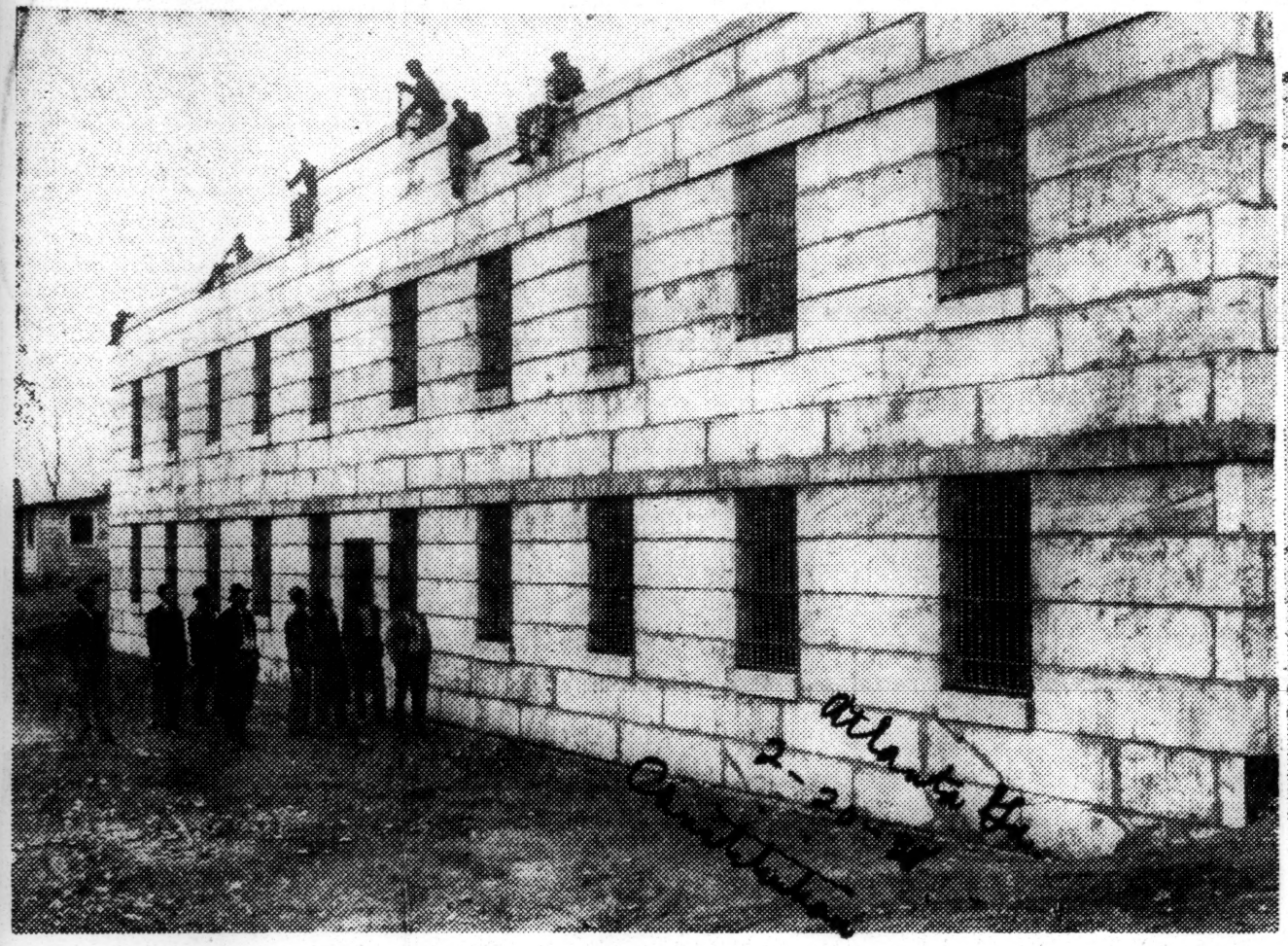

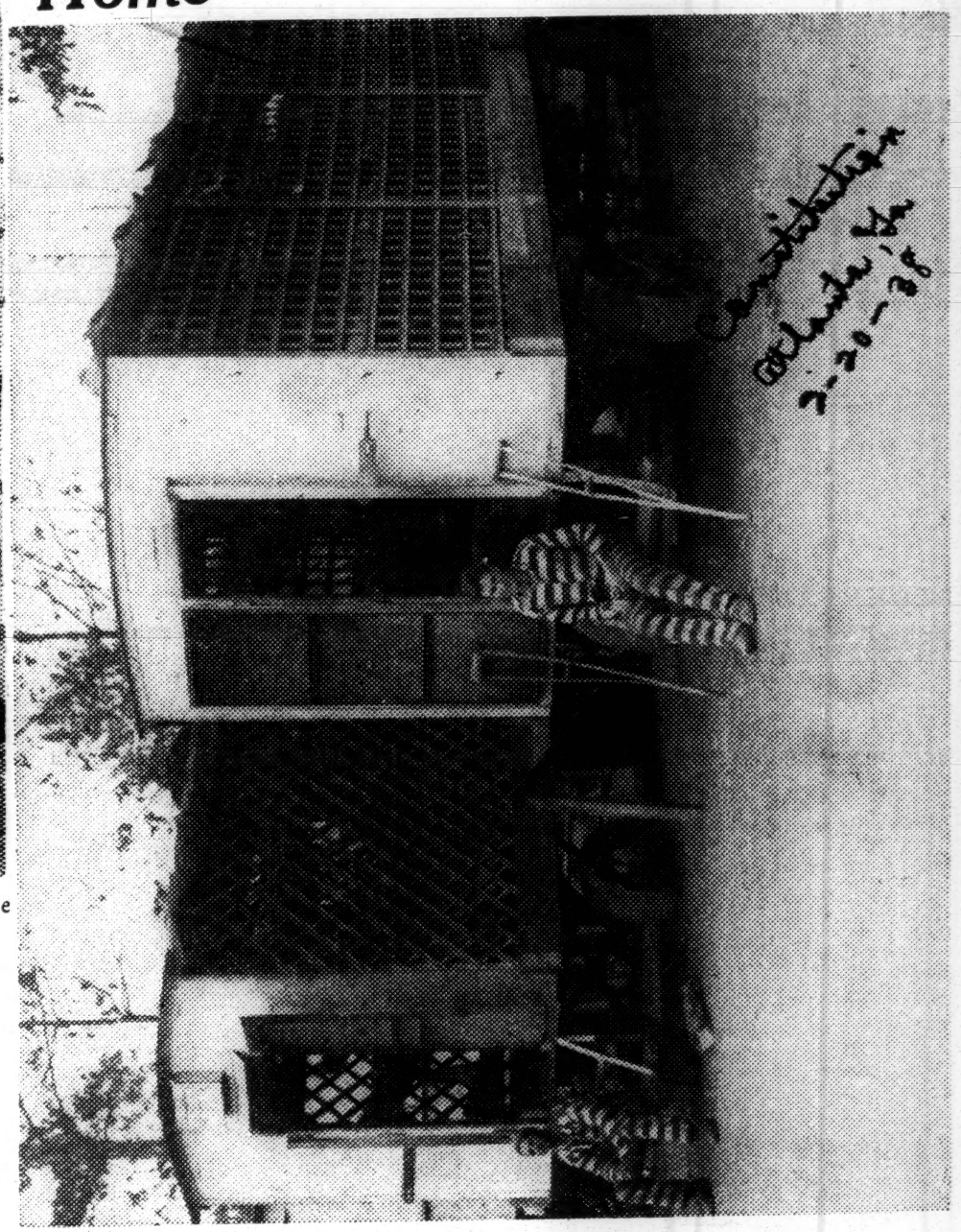

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CHAINGANG'S REGIME NOW ENDED

Industrial Work To Replace That On Road Outfits

WILL HUMANIZE

REIDSVILLE, Ga.—(SNS)—A new day is in store for Georgia's prisoners.

Laws passed at the recently adjourned General Assembly call for revision of the penal system, abolishing the chain gang and substituting industrial work for dangerous felons.

Wednesday, Governor Rivers was here with the newly created Board of Penal Administration and appointed A. C. Blalock, of Fayetteville, as chairman to carry out the reform program sponsored by the chief executive.

The board drew up the contents of a letter which will be sent to county authorities asking lists of convicts on their road gangs who were working in shackles, with the idea of moving all incorrigibles to the new $1,500,000 Tatnall County Prison near Reidsville.

Factors in the new reform system are the humanitarian aspects and prevention of escapes.

Plans call for mental and physical examinations of all felony prisoners; fingerprinting and photographing of prisoners at the Tatnal Prison and assignment from there; meeting the veneral disease problem presented by 40 per cent of the incoming prisoners; removing shackles from the legs of incorrigibles and placement of them in Tatnall to manufacture motor car plates, shoes, concrete pipe and metal works and to can fruits and vegetables for the state.

A system of new public works camps will obtain throughout the state and will be filled on a merit system. It is the aim of the board to humanize the handling of prisoners in the state.

Wide interest has been shown in the prison reform plans of Georgia's Governor Rivers revealed Wednesday that a London newspaper had spent approximately $105 in an interview of fifteen minutes between an English reporter and himself. It was stated that England's old Dartmoor prison is undergoing reform moves.

VALE, CHAIN GANG

Launching of a new prison system in Georgia marks the passing of the chain gangs, institutions which, admittedly not the best, nevertheless did not deserve all the opprobrium attached to the name in other parts of the nation and the world.

The new system is a long step forward toward the ideal of humanitarian regeneration of character which, ultimately, will displace the idea of punishment from all penology. Georgia, in one year, has accomplished a reform which experts anticipated would require five, and today the state can point to a prison set-up which, when in full operation, will challenge the admiration of all states.

The chain gangs which fade from the Georgia scene were unfortunately named. Some prisoners, the incorrigibles, had to be shackled when worked on the roads and without anything to prevent escape except the guards. But the prisoner who behaved himself was, in most cases, better off on one of these work units than if held in a prison behind bars and stone walls. It was only the occasional exception that gave the chain gangs their bad name.

In the new system, in fact, work gangs will still be maintained by the state, but they will be manned by convicts who have won the privilege by good behavior. The incorrigibles will be kept at the new Tattnall prison, a model for such institutions, where escape will be as nearly impossible as human ingenuity can make it.

The lash and the dreaded "sweat box" have been banned by rules of the old prison board for years. Now they will be forever outlawed.

Segregation of young prisoners and first offenders will be possible under the new plan and industries operated at the Tattnall prison will provide occupation for all incarcerated there. Thus the lack of work which does more to sap character than anything else, will also be a thing of the past.

An important feature proposed is that all prisoners paroled in the future must be first cured of disease. It is revealed by the records that 40 per cent of convicts are afflicted with syphilis, one of the worst plagues of the modern world. Syphilis not only ravages the physical being, but eventually attacks the brain and breaks down the moral character of many of its victims.

Modern medical science can cure this disease, if used in time. No greater step toward rehabilitation of the individual character could be taken than the cure of this, and other diseases, before the prisoner is again returned to society.

Georgia begins a new day in penology. Instead of the name of the state being held up to scorn, even though largely undeserved, she should become a model upon which other states can base reforms in their own prison systems.

THE PAROLE AND PEONAGE

There is a new prison set-up in Georgia. Heretofore the parole board made recommendation for the release of a prisoner, and it was left to the governor to approve it. Some thought that this was too much power for one man. The recent legislature changed it by giving full power to the prison board, thus eliminating the governor. This commission has only been functioning a few months. Already, complaints are made about their action in paroling convicts. It has been reported that certain prisoners have been paroled in care of persons who are causing them to work in a state of peonage. The commission was recently forced to explain their action in a few cases. It is regretted that such a situation is arising at the incipiency of the administration of the commission. It is hoped that the members of the commission will act above any suspicion in his direction. There is a chance to have great advantage taken of helpless prisoners, thus causing prison condition in the state to be on a par with that of past years.

NO MORE SHACKLES FOR CONVICTS

For a number of years no penal system in the nation has come in for more unfavorable and often unjust, criticism than Georgia's chain gangs. A few escaped criminals, seeking notoriety and a desire to capitalize on their "experiences," have taken advantage of the opportunity to play upon the feelings of the people of other states to successfully frustrate extradition. But there will be no more of this. The excuse has been removed. Georgia has a new penal system. Chain gangs are no more. The last shackles have been struck off—the chains discarded.

Gradually, during the last decade, punishments for fractious criminals on the former chain gangs have been made less objectionable. First, the lash was abandoned. Then the solitary confinement cell, the "sweat box," then the stocks, which were substituted, went by the board. And last of all, shackles, a great deal less harmful and objectionable than the name implies, were abandoned. The only punishment now invoked is confinement in a regular cell with a restricted diet. Experience has indicated that the possibility of an empty stomach has a greater influence in bringing incorrigible criminals into line than the abandoned methods.

With the opening of Tattnall prison several months ago, Georgia inaugurated a penal system worthy to serve as a model for the entire nation. At that time the chain gang system was to be abolished as quickly as possible. That end has now been achieved. A much smaller number of work camps have been organized. Ironically, most of the prisoners transferred from the "obnoxious" chain gangs to prison cells soon found life behind cold stone walls was less desirable than the healthful, outdoor life on the state's highways and bridges. So the limited number of available places at the work camps are now given as a reward for good behavior at the new prison.

The program to separate first offenders from the hardened type of criminal is rapidly developing. A survey is now being made which will result in separating between 300 and 400 youths, under 18 years of age, from the habitual type of convict. They will not only be separated, but trained in a rehabilitation camp, providing wholesome atmosphere, a period of transition between the time of release or shortly before release and their actual return to society. This new system is expected to prepare these boys, to the greatest extent possible, for the beginning of a new life.

It is anticipated that Georgia's new penal system will contribute much toward solving many of the state's most difficult sociological problems. But if nothing else is accomplished than removing the cause of criticism by other states, it will have been well worth while.

Chains Are Struck From State Felons

Chains have been taken from the legs of every prisoner in the state's 118 prison camps, Chairman A. O. Blalock, of the State Board of Penal Administration, announced yesterday.

The deadline for elimination of all shackles was set for tomorrow.

Chains will not be permitted as punishment in the future.

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Johnson City, Tenn. Press
August 8, 1938

LAST OF THE CHAIN GANG

Several things have conspired to give the state of Georgia an unpleasant odor in the nostrils of many residents of other Southern states and to make it an object of contempt or loathing to most of the North. One has been the state's stubborn insistence upon continuing lynch law; another retention of its barbaric chain gang system. Naturally, critics of the state have seldom admitted the worst offenses against decency were committed by a small minority of Georgians and that the section's "best people," like those of every other state, are opposed to such practices.

Now, however, things are looking up down Georgia way, from a civic standpoint. Lynching is steadily declining—and, at last, the chain gangs which have been the cause of so much censorious criticism have been things of the past—in their old form, at least.

As evidence of nation-wide gratification at the latter improvement, the following remarks may be reprinted from one of the most ably edited newspapers in the country, *The Ohio State Journal:*

The last chains have been cut from the ankles of convicts in Georgia and the lash and sweat box have been eliminated. A more human method of handling prisoners and especially road gangs has been started and even the old-time overseer who struck and punished on the slightest provocation has been fired to make way for more intelligent handling of the unfortunates who fall into the web of the law.

It is pleasant to record these changes, for Georgia was the last state to cling to the ancient and brutal method of handling prisoners, especially negro convicts. The heavy chains which were attached to the ankles permitted only a slow, ambling gait at best; the sweat box in which recalcitrants were locked brought death to many, and the lash was once plied so freely that thousands came back from chain gangs to bear to their graves the welts left on their backs by the brutal sting of an overseer's blacksnake.

Of course, there can be no coddling of prisoners. Those who have broken the law must make due compensation as society demands. They must be subject to a rigid discipline and be denied the pursuits, rights and pleasures which make freedom so desirable. However, the lash, the chain, the sweat box and other cruelties reminiscent of the inquisition have no place in America.

Georgia is to be congratulated and commended for finally cleaning up the unsavory mess which made its prison system a stench in the land.

Convict White Youth In Hold-up Of Negro

Daily Worker

A young white man who was tried for an assault with intent to rob a colored man early this fall was convicted of a misdemeanor in Fulton Superior Court Friday afternoon. Judge Paul D. Etheridge will probably sentence the youth Monday.

11-15-38

Marvin Dennis, white, the convicted youth, faced trial in the September 12 alleged assault with intent to rob Willie Fortson. The state, represented by Assistant Solicitor E. E. Andrew, contended that Dennis attacked Fortson, a WPA worker, with some unknown blunt instrument in an effort to relieve him of his pay check cash near the corner of Simpson and Gray streets.

Fortson said Dennis was one of two white men who approached and assaulted him in the robbery attempt. When Fortson went into a drug store to get treatment for his wounds, the young white man entered and there ensued argument that each was robbed by the other testimony contended. A call to police resulted in the fleeing of the white man, the druggist testified. He was arrested later, giving a fictitious name and address, it was alleged.

An attempt to show that the colored plaintiff was mistakened in his identity and that there was no actual assault failed, as shown in the verdict of the jurors.

'Safe' in Harlem— Ryals Fighting Lynchers' Order

Negro's Wife Tells of Attacks by Planter Infuriated Because Sharecropper Thwarted Attempt to Cheat Him

By Carl Carter

Sharecropping under a scorching Georgia sun for 13 hours is no picnic. But John Ryals did it. The hardy 37-year-old Negro did it because he wanted to provide for his wife and his seven children.

And he did it for another reason. A powerful reason. A reason for which his people fought and died in the Civil War. John Ryals was the owner of land! Right in Clyo, Georgia, where he was born and raised, there was a snip of land all his own. But land without money to work it is like having an appetite but no food.

Daily Worker

He reckoned that a year of cropping, at most, would provide enough money to get started on his own land. He had never worked at cropping before; road-building was his regular trade.

From 1935 till the crop was harvested in 1936, Ryals and his family worked for Mr. Ulzey—"from the littlest to the biggest," they all worked. But they "didn't clear anything that year." And the money earned that year went to paying Mr. Ulzey for fertilizer, and for food and old clothes.

10-24-38

THEN IT HAPPENED

They pitched in for the second year's crop with even greater determination. From sunrise "till way into the night" they labored in the fields. They tended 45 acres of corn; 15 acres of cotton; 2 acres of string beans; 2 acres of lima beans; one and a half acres of sugar cane; 1 acre of squash; and 1 acre of sweet potatoes.

"We sure slaved for that white man," declared his wife, Brena.

June, 1937, was harvest time for the second year's crop. And it was a good crop, according to his wife.

"We had 4 bales of cotton, 250 bushels of corn; and everything looked fine. But it looked like Mr. Ulzey didn't want to pay off. He didn't like it because John was keeping book. He started finding fault with everything and picking on John as if he wanted to run him off."

On June 18th, John took the mule and wagon and started off for Mr. Ulzey's store to do the week's shopping—that was the only place they were allowed to shop. His wife and two of the boys were with him.

John hitched the mule to a post outside the store, in care of Johnnie and Melvin, 13 and 11 years old, respectively, and crossed the street; his wife entered the store. Then it happened.

SLIGHT WOUND

The "crazy mule" broke the hitch and dashed wildly up the road, heading back for the farm. Ulzey rushed out of the store in a terrible rage. He "was awful mad" and using vile language was but a prelude to physical violence. Seizing an iron crowbar he struck Ryals repeatedly, knocking him to the ground.

Ryals up to this time, according to his wife, confined himself to futile attempts at warding off the blows. But when Ulzey "grabbed hold of him" and shouted to his wife for the gun to "kill the . . . ." his one frantic thought was escape. He drew a pocket knife in self defense and cut Ulzey on the shoulder. According to testimony of doctors in Georgia, and that of his wife, it was a slight wound.

In less than an hour a lynch mob was seeking his head. But they didn't catch up with him. Without daring to return to the farm house, he ran and walked an hitched, heading for up North.

A few weeks later, Ulzey, who was 63 years old and suffered from diabetes and high blood pressure, died. Doctors who attended him at the hospital attributed his death to his complicated diseases.

Once in the big city, Ryals scuffled to earn a living as best he could. He picked up a job here and there—porter, fireman, janitor. As the months passed he managed to send for his wife and five of the children.

"SAFE" IN HARLEM

Three weeks ago Ryals was working as elevator operator at 853 St. Nicholas Avenue. His wife and the children took care of a three-story family house at 475 W. 152nd St., just around the corner from his job.

They received 50 cents a week for taking care of the house, plus a room in the basement. Because the room was too small for his family Ryals rented a room adjoining for $22.50 a month. They found it very difficult to get along. But it was like heaven compared to facing a lynch mob. Here they were safe.

"We were glad to be alive," said his wife, "and we were sort of working out ways for bringing the other two children up here."

On Saturday, Oct. 1st, Mr. Ryals cleaned up the lawn, as usual, and placed the garbage cans on the sidewalk. A gang of neighborhood kids, however, were bent on playing pranks. Every time the cans were placed on the sidewalk they overturned them on the lawn.

Irritated to a point of desperation, Mrs. Ryals heeded the advice of her landlady and registered a complaint at the Police Precinct. The officer at the Precinct casually requested her name and address and promised to attend to the matter.

The cops came the next day. But they didn't come to settle that problem. The came to return John Ryals to the South.

"They burst in," said Mrs. Ryals, "as if they wanted to beat me up.

'Open the woor,' they shouted, do you want me to break it down on you!'

"And when I opened the door the one named Murray said, 'you're sitting up here and enjoying the damn relief, aren't you!'

"But I've never been on relief," she protested, "and I never thought the police up here used to act that way to people. I was sure surprised."

They snatched Ryals off the job and made ready for his extradition to Georgia. To them it was just another case in the routine of official business.

But to the progressive people of New York it was much more. They saw it as another act in the mighty drama of struggle for passage of the anti-lynching bill; as a counterpart of the shameful filibuster put across by Southern Tories in the halls of Congress; as part of the wave of terrorism now sweeping through the South; as a phase of the drive against the victories of the people through the New Deal.

DEFENSE FOUND

And they acted. A Ryals Legal Defense Committee was organized, headed by Attorneys: Edward A. Watts; Darwin W. Telesford; Lucius L. Delany; and Vernon J. Williams. This Committee comprises the legal fist which has been hammering away in the courts for his freedom; which has petitioned Gov. Lehman for a special hearing.

And the people's organizations which jealously guard the right to liberty immeidately went into action. The National Negro Congress, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Greater New York Co-ordinating Committee for Employment; the Communist Party of the 21st Assembly District, the International Labor Defense—churches, unions.

Ryals is scheduled to appear before the Supreme Court on Oct. 21, at which time a writ of habeas corpus will be argued for his freedom. In the event of an adverse decision another writ will be presented. Progressives in New York are determined to successfully battle Southern reaction for Negro rights as symbolized in the Ryals case, even as they did, repeatedly, in the days prior to the Civil War.

Thirty-year-old Mrs. Ryals and her children are in their cellar domicile, working, waiting and hoping. Mrs. Ryals isn't very well. She expects another baby.

John Ryals is in prison. He listens eagerly to news of the struggle to keep him from a Georgia lynch mob. He is anxious to get out and look after his family.

AROUND THE CIRCLE

By Eugene Anderson

Mullet Suppers Blamed for Negro Cuttings
Austin With Big Horn Heard Through Storm

Complaints are heard in many sections about fights among Negroes. Judge Ogden Persons of the Flint circuit superior courts recently said he had never known anything like the number of murder cases among the Negroes, and he wondered why.

At Perry, in Houston county, a few years ago the situation was so bad the grand jury was asked to see what could be done about it; and a lawyer suggested that mullet suppers were responsible. Such suppers were discouraged; barbecues were substituted. This seemed to better conditions.

But in Twiggs county, Dr. H. A. Rogers says Saturday night fighting is a favorite time for the Negroes to stab each other. "I never leave my office on that night," he said. "I am sure to be called on to sew up some wounds. One Saturday night recently a woman came in here slashed so badly seventy-six stitches were required. The officers couldn't find her assailant. She said it was her husband, and that he ran away after the attack."

Lynch Threat Hangs Over Negro If Sent South

Harlem Groups Unite in Defense of Ryals, Facing Court Today in Attempt to Bring Him to Georgia on Murder Charge

Lynch law waits in Georgia for John Ryals.

So when the 36-year-old Negro apartment house superintendent appears in 151st Street Court at 10 this morning for a hearing on extradition to the southern state, International Labor Defense attorney Barney Rosenstein and a delegation of Ryals' friends and neighbors will be on hand to oppose what they characterize as a "gross injustice."

In the small basement rooms at 475 West 152nd Street, where the family live, Mrs. Brena Ryals tells their story up to the tragic climax that took her husband off to jail early last Sunday morning in the hands of police armed with an extradition warrant charging murder in Clyo, Georgia:

ATTACKED BY LANDLORD

A year ago last June, Ryals, a sharecropper at Clyo, rural community near Savannah, had a fight with his landlord, Euley Ulzey. The plantation boss flew into a rage when Ryals couldn't handle a balky mule Ulzey ordered him to drive. Ulzey knocked the Negro down; started to belabor him with an iron bar; yelled for his wife to bring his shotgun.

In self defense, Ryals fought back, inflicting a slight shoulder wound on Ulzey, and ran, realizing that many a lynching grew from a smaller "crime." With his wife and seven young children, he fled the county, came to New York, found his $50-a-month super's job in Harlem and continued life as a respected, law abiding citizen.

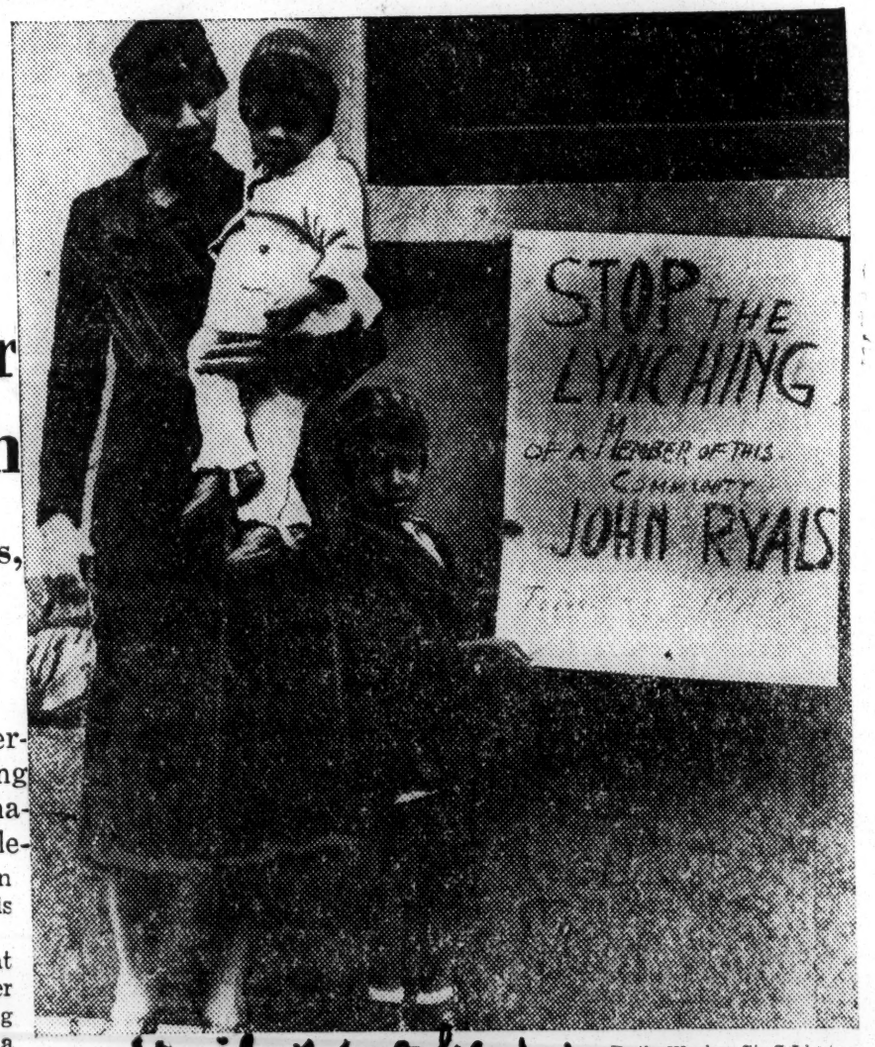
The altercation at Clyo in June, 1937, was followed in July of that year, however, by the death of landlord Ulzey. The doctor who attended him stated at the time that the wound in his shoulder was healing nicely and had nothing to do with the matter—that the cause of death was acute diabetes, a kidney disorder and high blood pressure.

FIGHT EXTRADITION

Nevertheless, lynch law and chain gang justice being what it is, a Georgia grand jury, one year after the death of Ulzey, has indicted Ryals for murder and the State demands his extradition.

The Milton Herndon, Alonzo Watson and Sojournor Truth Branches of the Communist Party (all in the 21st A. D. section, where Audley Moore is executive secretary) have actively interested themselves in the case, are determined to fight extradition to the last ditch.

Fights Husband's Extradition



—Daily Worker Staff Photo

Mrs. John Ryals, whose husband is fighting an order for extradition to Georgia, is shown with two of their seven children at a recent court hearing on the case.

WHITE WIFE FILES $25,000 SUIT AGAINST RACE COUPLE

MACON, Ga., Oct. 27 (Special) —The biggest damage suit ever filed by a white citizen against a colored citizen in Macon's history has just been instituted in the City Court here.

The action, filed by Mrs. Laura Everidge, (white) is directed against Tom Bivins and his wife Mamie Bivens, and seeks recovery of $25,000 damages for the death of V. B. Everidge, husband of the plaintiff. It is alleged that he died as the result of injuries received when he was struck on a public street by a car said to have been owned by Bivens and driven by his wife.

Vienna Negro Held On Money Charge

(Telegraph's Georgia News Service)

AMERICUS, Oct. 6.—United States Commissioner H. B. Williams said today that he had bound over a Negro to federal court under $1,000 bond on charges of passing altered money.

Williams said the Negro was booked as Curtis Smith of Vienna, who was arrested there when witnesses said he passed off juggled money.

Witnesses, according to the U. S. commissioner, testified that Smith pasted halves of $5 and $1 bills together, passing a half-five and half-one as the higher denomination by sure.

He was committed to Bibb county jail after the hearing.

Crime - 1938

Georgia

GEORGIA SPURS PENAL REFORM

By WRIGHT BRYAN

ATLANTA, Ga., March 25.—Georgia again is seeking expert aid in carrying forward its prison-reform program designed to supplant chain gangs with a progressive system of penology.

Last year a thoroughgoing survey of the prison-labor problem in Georgia by the Federal Prison Industries Reorganization Administration paved the way for enactment of new penal laws at the recent special legislative session.

Now the newly organized State Board of Penal Administration is calling into consultation Austin H. MacCormick, New York City's Commissioner of Correction, for help in making the legislation effective.

Mr. MacCormick is expected here Monday to confer with board members. He will be asked, among other things, to help set up a system of records for control of the prison population and to suggest methods of examining and training guards and other prison personnel.

Chain Gangs Abandoned

A. O. Blalock, chairman of the Penal Administration Board, considers Mr. MacCormick one of the country's ablest penologists and has officially voiced the board's thanks to Mayor La Guardia for making Mr. MacCormick's services available.

Legally, the chain gang already has gone. One of the group of prison reform bills sponsored by Governor E. D. Rivers's administration provided for replacement of chain gangs with "public works camps" for "honor prisoners."

One of the major tasks of the Penal Administration Board is to make this change in fact as well as in name. It is the administration's intention to place all dangerous felons in the State Penitentiary in Tatnall County or at the quarry near Elberton. This would leave misdemeanor prisoners and trusties in the public works camps. The rule there is to be "no more shackles, whipping or sweat boxes."

The board is proceeding cautiously, since its program affects about 8,000 prisoners. But already transfers are being made between the various county camps and the Tatnall prison. At the latter institution there will be a broad industrial and agricultural program for use of prison labor.

The State College of Agriculture is cooperating with the Penal Board in plans for cultivation of the 2,200-acre farm as a practical demonstration project.

One feature of the new prison legislation is a shifting of responsibilities for prison management. Functions of the old State Prison Commission were divided among two groups. The new Penal Administration, an entirely new board, assume full control over the management of prisoners and penal institutions. Members of the old commission were transferred to a new "State Prison and Parole Commission."

Many Prisoners Released

This commission is charged with examining the record of each prisoner at least once a year and may grant paroles without obtaining Gubernatorial consent. Chairman Vivian Stanley reported to Governor Rivers today that the commission is releasing an average of 20 or 25 prisoners daily.

BEATEN MAN, 60, LETS CASE DROP

Daily World 4-3-38

The 60-year-old Atlantan, of Palmetto street address, who Sunday night stated he had been wrongfully beaten by county officers, declined Monday to make an issue of the case.

Atlanta, Ga.

Employed as a cook and butler, the victim said his employers accused him of stealing a small sum of money which he did not take. He declared that the officers beat him when he refused to admit taking the money from the house, located on Stratford road.

The injured man said he did not want his family embarrassed by the necessary court action that would be required, should he make an issue of the matter.

'CHAIN GANG' SUIT FOR LIBEL OPENS

'I Am Fugitive' Film To Be Shown Jury Trying $100,000 Stanley Action.

The cinema "I Am a Fugitive From a Chaingang" was booked yesterday for a command appearance here—this time before the jury in a $100,000 libel case.

Georgia Prison Commissioner Vivian L. Stanley is suing Warner Brothers Pictures, Inc., for showing the movie, which he charges was based on Robert Elliott Burns' book, "I Am a Fugitive From a Georgia Chaingang."

Stanley said six other cases based on the film had been settled out of court "for substantial amounts." These included those instituted by the late E. L. Rainey, one time chairman of the prison commission; G. E. Johns, now a member of the commission; the late Harold Hardy, who was warden of Troup county prison, and former Campbell County Warden Paul Phillips.

Burns escaped from both Troup and Campbell county prisons. He still owes the state all except a year and a half of the 6-to-10-year sentence imposed for armed robbery here in 1922. Recent reports said he was a tax consultant in Newark, N. J.

The Stanley suit was opened yesterday in Fulton superior court, a jury was selected, and attorneys argued questions of law before Judge E. E. Pomeroy. The jury will begin hearing evidence today.

Aligned in the court battle are former Assistant Attorney General of Georgia John I. Kelley and Miss Edith Campbell, for Stanley; and Clem Powers and R. T. Jones, father of golfer Bobby Jones, representing the picture company.

Kelley has requested the courtroom showing of the picture which provoked the suit—and which also brought a Motion Picture Academy award to Paul Muni for his portrayal of the fugitive.

The jury selected to try the case—which probably will continue through the week—is composed of six salesmen, a farmer-merchant, a mechanic, two contractors and two clerks.

Charges "Brutalizing."

In his petition Stanley charged "the actors (of the film) in purporting to represent members of the prison commission, including the defendant, sought to convey, and did convey the impression the commissioners were men of cold, brutal character."

Powers argued before the court "The movie said at the start it was a film play, the names were fictitious and the camps depicted were mentioned as Tuttle and Merritt county camps. Everybody knows there are no such counties in Georgia."

Besides the film, other evidence will include the book written by Burns.

MAN CLAIMS BEATING BY POLICEMEN

Says Theft Ruse Used After He Indicated He Had Another Job

NOT ARRESTED

Brutally beaten by county officers, an Atlanta resident of Palmetto street was in a painful condition Sunday night as this newspaper went to press. His face was swollen badly and his stomach in bad shape because the officers stomped and kneeded in it, reports indicate.

The victim, for the past several months employed as cook and butler for a white resident of a Stratford Road address, according to his statement to a WORLD reporter was falsely accused of the theft of a small sum of money.

The action was, according to his testimony, in direct contrast to the treatment accorded him before he announced on Saturday, April 2, that he would relinquish his job in Atlanta and return to his former connection at one of the world's finest hotels in a nearby state.

According to the victim, his employers did their best to have him remain in their employ. Asserting that the salary paid him was too low for adequate support of his family, the victim, a man nearly 60 years of age with a 40-year record of honesty and integrity in some of the richest hotels and homes in the country, made known the fact that his reason for the change was purely economic.

Sunday morning, after having been almost begged to remain, the victim declares that he noted a sudden change in the attitude of his superiors. A sum of money was reported missing in the house and he was interrogated. Declaring that he answered in the negative as regards its whereabouts, the victim went on with his usual routine of preparing dinner.

With a two-score record of perfect service he declares that he did not, for one moment, dream of the apparent intentions of his employers. When mention was made of involving officers for an investigation the subject of this story says he informed the mistress that in order to terminate the friction, he would willingly contribute the equivalent of the supposedly missing sum.

Officers Called

This request was waived by the employers and suddenly the victim was confronted by two county officers in the kitchen of the residence where he was employed, he said. According to the victim, he was placed in a police car and carried to the outskirts of the vicinity.

He was reportedly handcuffed by one of the officers while the other procured a stick from the nearest site. The stick was allegedly used on the cook's body until it was too short for further use. Another was procured and the same lashing administered, it was stated. According to his testimony, the two officers told him that they would kill him if he failed to say that he stole the money.

side and battered in the face and on the head with the handle of the officers' guns. During the beating, one of the officers allegedly remarked: "You have a good home out here and you didn't appreciate it....we're going to give you something to appreciate!"

A brutal third-degree was visited upon the victim until he would say that he had taken the money, he said. He was allegedly thrown into the car and carted to his residence where the officers indulged in a very hurried, and according to the victim, aimless search.

Unable to locate the money (about nine dollars) they questioned his wife and she says that one of them said: "Well, maybe he hasn't got it."

Despite this, one of the officers reportedly assaulted him brutally again as the car sped down Ashby Street on Atlanta's westside. With more threats of death failing to bring the desired results (the victim asserts that he had resigned himself to die by this time) the representatives of tax-payers allegedly took the badly bruised victim back to the residence of his employers where he was told to get his belongings and flee.

After an hour's conference with the employers, the officers resumed their Buckhead beats. The officers reportedly made no case against the victim and settled the issue according to their own dictates.

All efforts will be made to direct the attention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to this case, it was reported last night.

GEORGIA'S NEW PENAL SYSTEM

During the past decade no penal system in the nation has come in for more unfavorable and often unjust, criticism than Georgia's chain gangs. And a number of escaped criminals have not only won additional notoriety, but have successfully taken advantage of these conditions to play upon the feelings of outside executives to frustrate extradition.

But all this is in the past. With the opening of Tatnall prison (the last word in penal construction, the state of Georgia sets up a prison system to serve as a model for the entire country. The new penitentiary is ample in size, equipment and management to make it second to none among the nation's prisons.

Much of the criticism levelled at the old chain gang system was unjustified by the actual facts. Although there were admittedly some abuses, usually brought about by over-zealous guards and attendants, the majority of prisoners preferred this life, even with its hardships, to incarceration behind the cold walls of a penitentiary. It was far more healthful and kept the prisoners in better spirits.

And there are to be no more chain gangs. They are being converted into work camps limited to a much smaller number of prisoners. The available places, and this will come as a distinct shock to former critics, are to be given to prisoners as a reward for good behavior at Tatnall. And it is astonishing, since incarceration has been adopted generally in the state, the number of prisoners who not only prefer camp life but are willing to walk the chalk line to get back to it.

Another feature of the new system that will bear watching for results is the rehabilitation camp. This type of camp is to provide a wholesome atmosphere, a period of transition, so to speak, between the time of release, or shortly before release, and the actual returning of the prisoner to society. This is expected to prepare him, to the greatest extent possible, for the beginning of a new life. Separating the first offender from the hardened type of criminal is also expected to do much toward reshaping the lives of wrongdoers, long regarded as one of the nation's most difficult sociological problems.

The Youth And Crime

IT is to be regretted that statistics show that a large majority of major crimes are committed by the youth of today. That ought not be. It betrays something about the reaction to our modern methods in religion and education. Anyone will tell you that we live in a new age and modern things are taking the places of the old. In that there is an urge on the part of every one to be modern. There is no fight here against modernism. Neither is there any fight on our new educational methods and the emphasis the church is striving to make on the minds of the youth of our time. But, in the face of the facts and figures, it must be admitted that the heavy expense, embarrassment and what not involved in running our legal machinery, keeping up houses of correction, reformatories and other penal institutions for the incarceration of the reckless youth, is hardly justified.

The people of the preceding generation marvel at the rapid rate the young people are drifting away from the fundamentals they have striven so hard to lay for them.

Yes, this is an age of higher education. Almost any youth can get a high school and college education if he will have it. The radio and the daily press were unknown to that honest strata now few and far between among us who laid this great bulwark on which we stand. Many of them have never had a case in court and while educational privileges were sparse, they have managed to keep up with the times.

The youth of today should be ashamed of the terrible homicide record and the high rate in mortality due to diseases contacted in pursuing wild lives.

Our hope for the future is no stronger than those to whom we are looking for sponsorship.

Crime never pays. It is by no means an investment., and every year it takes a higher toll from society without turning back any dividend.

It is no uncommon thing to see accounts of crimes committed by young people who had good homes and parents whose lives are credits to the community where they live. In spite of this devout record and the investments made in books, buildings and grounds the youth of today are running up our crime rate.

Something must be done to save our young people. Their minds must be occupied and they must be thrown into those wholesome environments that made our fathers the very salt of the earth.

Crime news and crime on the screen should discourage those who daily commit black crimes on society. The schools and the churches are on trial. If they have not saved the youth in the way they have been going, they should take stock and find out what is wrong with their procedure. The jail houses and court houses and penitentiaries cannot be depended upon as the mediums by which we will lower the crime record of the youth. The jails and penitentiaries can only take those out of society who menace our well being.

If anything, they harden the criminal, discourage him and cast upon him that complex that he cannot come back.

It is ours to awaken to a sense of duty and take this burden from the jails, asylums and penal institutions and place it where it rightly belongs—on the shoulders of society, the church and the schools.

ALL OF PRISONERS LOSE THEIR CHAINS

Gangs' Are Now a Thing of Georgia's Past; No Sweat Boxes.

Continued From First Page.

lowed the state's "New Deal" for the men who are paying the price for breaking the law.

The legislature last spring decided it just wasn't the human thing to do and enacted a new prison reform program providing for striking off chains, expurging the phrase "chain gang" from official records, segregation of youthful criminals and other changes.

Chains which bound ankles of prisoners so tightly the prisoner could not move at a gait faster than a clumsy amble have been banned altogether and may not be used even for punishment after today, Chairman Blalock said.

In Fulton county no prisoner has worn a shackle since the legislation was passed last spring, officials said.

As prisoners last night began dropping shackles from toughened ankles for the last time, prison camp wardens prepared for a newer and more human form of "disciplining" unruly prisoners.

Hereafter, any incorrigibles who cannot be handled safely without shackles will be sent to the industrialized "Alcatraz of the Piney Woods"—Tattnall prison at Reidsville. In return, men in the new state prison who can be worked without chains will be sent to the camps "exporting" the bad characters.

With the striking of convict shackles which inspired the term "chain gang," Georgia, once assailed as the most backward state in the nation in penal methods, had broken away from its past.

Gone with the chains are the lash, "sweat boxes" and other inhuman forms of punishing unruly criminals.

All Prisoners Are Freed Of Shackles

By AL HAILEY.

The Georgia "chain gang" today officially becomes just a ghost expression, an echo of an era in the state's dead past.

Deadline for elimination of chains from legs of all prisoners in Georgia's 118 prison camps was passed yesterday. Use of shackles last night had ceased in every camp, A. O. Blalock, chairman of the State Board of Penal Administration, said.

Abandonment of shackles fol-

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Waycross Ga., Journal Herald
January 3, 1938

Worthy of Study

A report of the number placed in jail in Tift county during the past four years shows a decided increase in the number of white males, an increase in the number of white females, an increase in the number of Negro males but a decrease in the number of Negro females.

During the past three years no white males under 16 years of age have been placed in jail but during the same time 12 Negro males under 16 years of age were placed in jail.

People are giving some concern to crime, to the ages of criminals, and to crime prevention measures.

CRIME ON INCREASE IN FULTON COUNTY, SOLICITOR REPORTS

Constitution
1-16-38

Special Steps Taken To Care for Greater Number of Women Prisoners.

Atlanta, Ga.

There was less respect for the law in Fulton county last year than in 1936.

And 19 per cent of the crimes were committed by boys and girls under 21 years of age. Women were responsible for 9 per cent of the law violations.

These, and other facts, were revealed yesterday in the annual report of Solicitor John S. McClelland, of criminal court of Fulton county.

Many Women Prisoners.

With crime on the increase, steps were taken to care for women prisoners at Fulton tower. Here two floors were opened to receive women—one for the white and one for the negro.

Quarters are large and arranged as dormitories, each equipped with 15 to 20 beds. And that the prisoners might be made as comfortable as possible in their misfortune, a recreation room was provided where the strains of victrola music are heard. There are card tables, too.

Mrs. Odessa Reeves, night matron for the past six years, said the usual run of women prisoners was between 36 and 40 persons, but last night there were 17 white women and 36 negro women prisoners, who are being held on a wide range of charges.

Sometimes women become unruly and to care for them special cells were equipped.

Auto, Liquor Cases.

The solicitor reported a large number of offenses in criminal court dealt with prohibition violations and automobile accidents. However, a decrease was noted in the number of lottery cases, but this was due to the transfer of "bug" cases to superior court during the fall months and not to a decrease in arrests or activities.

"Enactment of the driver's license law and organization of the state patrol should improve conditions," he said, "but there is a need for a reasonable inspection law pertaining to automobiles to insure the community that automobiles are mechanically safe," McClelland said.

Of a total of 7,670 cases tried during the year, 40 per cent were found to be liquor violations, public intoxication or driving while drunk. The figure represented an increase over the number tried in 1936. Lottery cases tried numbered 8.7 per cent of the total. The balance included such offenses as larceny and assault and battery.

Many Convictions.

Further analysis of department figures revealed a high record of convictions for the solicitor's office: 6,037 persons were found guilty; 388 not guilty; 700 forfeited bond and the balance had their cases placed in the dead docket or nolle prossed.

Of the number found guilty, 762 received fines; 2,375 fines and suspended sentences; 1,683 straight sentences and 1,217 were suspended or placed on probation.

More crimes in Fulton county are committed by men than women and more committed by negroes than white persons, the report showed.

Ninety-one of every 100 cases were made against men and 53 of every 100 were against negroes. In the age groups, 19 per cent of the offenders were under 21; 43 per cent between 22 and 32; 24 per cent between 33 and 43, and 14 per cent over 44.

Cost of Trials Cut.

While the number of cases has grown greatly in the last few years, the report said, the appropriations for trying them has been cut down, so that each case now costs $3.80 as compared with $6.70 in 1929. Despite this, the court was operated in 1937 at a profit, $50,000 in fees being turned into the county treasury in excess of the cost of operation.

The solicitor praised Judge Jesse M. Wood and the county law enforcement agencies for their cooperation in dealing with the "large volume of business" before the court.

Chain Gang Fugitive Sent Back To Georgia By Hoffman

Advertiser
1-18-38

Post Dispatch
Ala

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 17.—(AP)—Gov. Harold G. Hoffman tonight ordered the extradition to South Carolina of Floyd Mix, 19-year-old negro fugitive from a chain gang whose counsel had said his return would be tantamount to "signing his death warrant."

The Governor, whose term expired at midnight, acted quickly on the recommendation of Theodore Backes, assistant State attorney general, who conducted a hearing today.

"The question of innocence cannot be tried here," Backes advised the Governor, "nor are we justified in examining into the question whether the prisoners in the State of South Carolina are mistreated, as is alleged."

Mix alleged he had fled from a chain gang near Camden, S. C., after he had been brutally beaten. He said he was sentenced to 10 years of hard labor when not yet 16 on a charge of attempted rape of a negro girl. He denied the charge and said he was not given a formal trial. He served seven months.

"If you send me back, send me back dead," was his plea.

He had made his way to Paterson, N. J., won the confidence of his employer and received considerable backing in his fight to escape extradition after his arrest a month ago.

Backes said "Mix is not a citizen of the State of New Jersey, and the record discloses his conviction.... under all the circumstances, I recommend that the demand of the Governor of the State of South Carolina be honored."

Hoffman made no comment in granting the demand of Gov. Olin D. Johnston for extradition.

S. P. Watkins, rural policeman of Kershaw County and a witness against Mix at the hearing, was here to return the youth to South Carolina.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
January 24, 1938

In Atlanta a negro was on trial for shootng at another. He was also charged with possession of one quart of liquor. He entered a plea of guilty to the liquor charge, but denied the shooting. He was placed on trial on both cases. When the jury considered the case one juror suggested that every member of the jury who had liquor in his home hold up his hand. Twelve hands went up. The jury then voted to acquit the negro on both counts.

Augusta Ga. Chronicle
January 23, 1938.

Let Him Without Sin—

That the people will not support any law which does not have the complete support of popular opinion was amply demonstrated in Fulton county at a trial Friday.

A Negro was charged with shooting at a Negro girl, and possessing one quart of whisky found in his home. He was placed on trial for both charges, and admitted the charge of owning the liquor, but denied shooting the girl.

Although the assistant solicitor general argued that personal opinion should be eliminated in determining the liquor charge, that the defendant's own admission should convict him, and that as long as the prohibition law is on the statute books a jury should act accordingly, verdicts of not guilty on both charges were rendered none-the-less.

A member of the jury, who afterwards explained the vote, said that a juror suggested first that every juror who has, or ever did have, liquor in his home, hold up his hand. Twelve hands went up. The vote followed.

Apparently the jurors felt that "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone" would be the basis on which justice should be handed down. Regardless of whether or not their decision was just in the eyes of the law, it is a good weather-vane as to public sentiment.

A law without the backing of the people can never be properly enforced.

NEW PENAL BOARD ABOLISHES LASH AND 'SWEAT BOX'

Group Meets in New $1,750,000 Prison With Governor Rivers and Legislative Committee.

EXECUTIVE CITES STATE'S OBLIGATION

Segregation of Youthful and First Offenders Is Planned at Conference.

By JACK TUBBS,
Constitution Staff Writer.

TATTNALL PRISON, Feb. 15.—Georgia today loosed shackles and chains, banned the lash and forever abolished the dread "sweat box" from the state's long maligned penal institutions.

The state's reorganized prison set-up was put in motion by the newly created penal administration board at its first meeting here at the Tattnall Prison.

The board meeting in the state's $1,761,000 prison building with Governor Rivers, and members of the new prison and parole commission and of a special joint legislative committee, approved continuation of the policy of the old prison commission, which prohibited the lash or "sweat boxes."

Forward Step.

The most forward step taken today was the adoption of a resolution which authorizes and provides for the transfer and assignment of incorrigible prisoners to and from county work camps to this "Alcatraz" prison of Georgia. Incorrigibles from other state penal institutions also will be sent here.

The board took no immediate action on selection of an executive secretary of the board and penal system to succeed Warden B. H. Beasley, recently resigned. No other administration aides were named.

It was indicated the board will reconvene next week at Milledgeville state prison. It was also believed that George A. Fisher, superintendent of prison industries, will be named executive secretary.

The executive secretary of the board is also warden of the state's penal institutions. At the session today Fisher was requested by the board to make recommendations for the new set-up at the next meeting in Milledgeville. The date of this meeting is to be announced later.

In a definite move toward segregation of youthful and first offenders, and to provide for the proper assignment of all male felony prisoners, the board, in a second resolution, directed that they be transferred to Tatnall prison upon conviction for examination and classification. All women prisoners would be sent to the female camp at Milledgeville.

First Resolution.

The board's first resolution said:

"Be it resolved by the Georgia State Board of Penal Administration assembled that: The county commissioners and wardens be requested to send in for transfer and reassignment those prisoners that have to be shackled and chained for safety or safe keeping so that all incorrigible prisoners may be confined to the Tattnall prison, to the end that shackles and chains will be definitely eliminated.

"The executive secretary of the board is instructed to request at once a list of such prisoners from the county authorities and to work out a policy to this end as rapidly as possible without detriment to the county road and public works programs, on such a basis as will insure a practical and orderly transfer and reassignment, it being the desire of the state board of administration to co-operate with county authorities in every way, the county authorities be notified not to send such prisoners for transfer and reassignment until detailed arrangements for such have been determined and disseminated."

Second Resolution.

The board in its second resolution said:

"Be it resolved by the Georgia State Board of Penal Administration assembled that: the clerks of courts be requested, immediately upon final sentence of all male felony prisoners, to certify to the State Board of Penal Administration so that said prisoners may be transferred to the Tattnall prison for mental and physical examinations, fingerprinting, photographing, classification, segregation of youthful and first offenders and assignment.

"That the names of all female prisoners be likewise submitted for transfer to the female camp at Milledgeville for aforesaid purpose. All as provided by law. That the executive secretary, without unnecessary delay upon receipt of such notification, arrange for the taking in custody and transfer."

Officers Elected.

The board convened early this morning and elected A. O. Blalock chairman, A. V. Mills, Sylvania banker, vice chairman, and Max V. Tolbert, of Calhoun, Gordon county school superintendent, secretary. In informal session which followed, Governor Rivers outlined briefly the conditions which brought about reorganization of the state's penal system.

Governor Rivers laid particular stress upon what he termed society's obligation to its weaker members, and laid most crime to lack of education, health and environment.

When society has done its full duty toward the citizens, the Governor declared, it has a joint responsibility for their crimes. He set forth the idea of rehabilitation of the prisoner and declared the obligation is on the state to provide rehabilitation for the unfortunate ones to make amends for neglect.

After a shad luncheon as guests of the prison administration, the board commission and committee members and others toured the 9,000-acre prison farm and inspected all prison shops and other facilities.

In today's discussions the problem of venereal disease among convicts was cited by Fisher, who told the board approximately 40 per cent of all incoming prisoners are found to be infected.

Governor Rivers urged members of the prison and parole board to provide that applications for parole include a medical certificate showing the prisoner to be free of venereal disease.

Reform Program.

The Georgia prison system is being reformed in one year, said Senator Lee Purdom, of Blackshear, committee member, instead of the five years federal authorities estimated the task would require. Senator Purdom further outlined the aims and objectives of the recently enacted legislation and like Senator Paul Lindsay, another committee member who followed him, enumerated the facilities and pointed out possibilities of the new prison. The Tattnall Prison industries, Senator Lindsay declared, should be able to make enough profit to completely liquidate the state's indebtedness for the prison estaablishment within a few years.

Judges Vivian Stanley and Clem Rainey sounded a stirring challenge to the state to forever banish the conditions which have existed in the past.

The new program, they declared, is not an idle dream, but a vivid reality. Others speaking included Dr. John R. Lewis, Louisville physician, and A. R. Anderson, Perry attorney.

Georgia Moving To End Chaingang

REIDSVILLE, GA., Feb. 15.—(AP)—Georgia's new State Board of Penal Administration organized here today to carry out a prison reform program eliminating the chain gang.

Industrial labor within prison walls is proposed for the dangerous felons who for years have been worked in leg shackles, under armed guards, on public roads of Georgia.

About 2,000 men will be accommodated in the new Tattnall County Prison here, a $3,000,000 plant already known to convicts as "The Alcatraz of the Piney Woods."

Trusties and other prisoners with good records will continue to do highway work, but without chains and with fewer guards, under provisions on a series of bills newly enacted by the state legislature.

"Public works camps" will be the official designation for the crews and they will be filled on a merit system basis. Penologists said convicts would prefer the relatively free life of the crews to confinement at Tattnall.

Governor E. D. Rivers told the board prison conditions were "the worst blot on the State of Georgia," when he took office.

He said the new program embodied opinions of Federal officers, a legislative committee, a sub-committee of judges and solicitors, and the State Prison Commission.

ATLANTA'S CRIME RECORD

Atlantans do not, generally, think of their city as one of the notorious crime centers of the nation. This city has, fortunately, escaped the worst conditions of organized racketeering and gang warfare. Nevertheless the actual statistical status of Atlanta is not one for pride. It was given in detail in the report on the recent survey of city and county government by Dr. Thomas H. Reed, municipal expert.

These figures show that, while the national average on murder was seven for each 100,000 of population during 1936, Atlanta had 42 per 100,000 for the same year. In robbery cases the local ratio is 213.9, while the national average is 72.2. Burglaries show a national average of 336.6, while that of Atlanta is 1055.6. For larceny the figures are 737.6, nationally, and 1572.7 locally.

An important step toward answering this challenge has recently been taken by the judges of the superior courts of Fulton county, following recommendations made by the Atlanta Bar Association. The executive committee of the association submitted the request to the bench.

Under the new plan adopted, Judge Hugh M. Dorsey will preside over the criminal division for 12 months, as chief judge. His associate in this division will be Judge Paul S. Etheridge. By thus giving one judge executive control over the court, it is believed better law enforcement, definite administration policies and increased efficiency will result.

It is essential to proper law enforcement that those charged with crime be brought to trial promptly. The innocent should be granted the earliest possible chance to prove their innocence. The guilty should begin their period of punishment without unnecessary delay. Only by such methods can proper respect for the law be instilled into all the people and without that full respect it is practically impossible to improve Atlanta's unfavorable crime record.

The new system for the Fulton superior court will, it is believed, lessen congestion on the court calendars and thus reduce trial delay.

Illinois

Crime - 1938

NEW THREAT TO
FRAME COPS' VICTIM

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CHICAGO, April--(CNA)- Mack Hickerson, porter who suffered a brutal beating at the hands of Chicago police, has been ordered by the State Attorney's office to a sanitary hearing to be held early in April, the Crusader News Agency learned this week. Crusader News Agency
4-4-38 New York Mirror

The preliminary examination was made by Dr. Rothman, white Cook County Hospital psychiatrist.

Attorney Joseph E. Clayton and International Labor Defense Attorney Max Neiman will defend Hickerson from being committeed to an insitution.

The porter was subjected to a third degree when police attempted to force him to confess to several murders and raping.

After he admitted to crimes which he never committed in order to escape torture, Hickerson was cleared of all charges in connection with the crimes.

Recent Axe Raids Worry Chicago "Policy" Barons

Racket Kings Are Seriously Considering Abdicating Their Rich Thrones

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Chicago's policy kings, who control a racket with an income estimated from $2,000,000 to $18,000,000 annually, are seriously considering abdicating thier thrones; state's attorney Courtney continued his campaign against them last week and announced that he would seek grand jury indictments, similar to those obtained by Thomas E. Dewey in New York.

Rumors, charges and counter-charges were hurled thick and fast this week. It is widely believed, however, that politics is at the bottom of the current fight against policy, which heretofore had operated out in the open. Ily Kelly, Ed Jones of the Jones brothers, Jim Knight and Jim Martin are active in politics. But they are aligned with the "city hall crowd," or the Democratic faction headed by Mayor Kelly and Pat Nash. Courtney, on the other hand, is allied with Gov. Horner.

WARD BOSSES

Jones, Kelly and Knight are precinct captains. Jones is understood to have a rule that every employe of his policy wheel must become a resident of the ward in which the Jones brothers operate. This is the fourth ward, where Joe Geary, white chairman of the civil service commission and a Kelly-Nash aide, is committeeman and boss. The policy barons allegedly ruled the precincts where they operated with an iron hand, pushing canvassers and Courtney-Horner workers around. This is supposed to have hurt the Courtney-Honer slate in the spring primary.

One of the first announced abdications was that of Jim Martin, overlord of policy in the Westside district. Friends reported Friday that Martin told them he had made his last drawing and was going to leave town, reputedly for Florida. Martin, former supreme treasurer of the Elks lodge is known as a personal henchman of Pat Nash. But despite this, the report is out that Martin was told he was "through" and advised to leave the city.

BIG PAY-OFF

Some observers believe Courtney is really intending to divert some of the revenue flowing into the Kelly-Nash organization. These observers say Courtney is interested in getting either part or all of this considerable fund. To support this theory, no station has been raided; all raids have been at the wheels where the "big shots" are. This pay-off for protection purposes amounts to $9,500 weekly and is allegedly collected by Ily Kelly and taken downtown.

But this syndicate, while it paid off in unison, was undermined by dissension and jealousy, and some of the members have not been paying dues. Two operators named Wynn McCullough and One Armed Sam Leake are among those who enjoyed protection without paying. Some of the independents, including Rose Toups, the lone woman operator, squawked to Courtney, informed sources said.

GRUMBLERS

The grumblers point out that the Joneses have thought they lived a charmed life. They claim the Joneses think themselves superior to any of the others, socially and otherwise. They say that Ed Jones, the leader, has stated that the schools in America were not good enough for his children and so has sent them abroad to be tutored. They say that Ed Jones has long planned to live abroad himself. He took his family abroad last year, shipping an expensive car which is still over there and is reported ready to fly toward a ship at the first sign of an indictment here.

The person most likely to be indicted first is Ily Kelly. Kelly is reported to have the enmity of his former father-in-law, Ex-Elderman Louis B. Anderson, over family differences and Kelly's "lack of appreciation" for the power which helped him upward. It is reported that his former kin by marriage has promised to see him "back in the streets," broke and glad to be a policy writer rather than a baron However, most of the wheels are still operating, although decidedly under cover.

CHICKEN THIEVERY HAS INVADED RANKS OF "BIG BUSINESS"

Illinois Legislator Says White Thieves Last Year Stole Poultry Valued at $1,486,000—Raiders, Highly Organized, Use High Speed Trucks.

CHICAGO, Dec. 8—(By Albert G. Barnett, for ANP)—A new day has dawned in the farmyard poultry roost and the "Negro chicken thief," long fabled in poetry and prose has been supplanted in Illinois by a highly-organized band of white poultry pilferers whose elastic arms during the last year have played havoc with the feathered gentry and cost farmers the staggering sum of $1,486,000.

Such, in effect, was the startling statement made last Tuesday night in Gilman, Ill., by State Representative F. Wood Lewis, during an address before the Rotary Club of that city. Telling of the huge sum lost last year to farmers through systematic chicken thievery, Representative Lewis declared:

THREE TIMES MORE THAN THAT STOLEN FROM BANKS

"That the amount is more than three times the $478,500 stolen from the 101 banks held up and robbed last year in all parts of the United States. If we include livestock and other farm property stolen last year in Illinois the total value of which the farmers in our State were robbed, will be increased to $2,000,000. That is a lot of money for Illinois to lose." The legislator then gave the Rotary members his version of the causes responsible for elevation of the lowly chicken thief to the ranks of big business. He said:

"The hunt for criminals in our bigger cities has grown so relentless that organized bands of city robbers have been driven out to prey upon the comparatively unprotected rural sections of our State. Use of high-speed trucks and fast automobiles makes capture of such criminals by local deputy sheriffs or constables extremely difficult. In fact, it is practically impossible for the limited forces of sheriffs' deputies and the rural police officers to patrol efficiently the 231,300 farms in Illinois." Pointing to a possible solution of the vexatious problem which has become acute throughout the State, Mr. Lewis told of planned legislation aimed at clipping the wings of chicken thieves.

WOMAN ROBS BANK, IS TRAPPED AT DOOR

Chicago Mother, Threatening to Cause Blast, Forces President to Give Her $5,000

SEIZED BY A POLICEMAN

Vials of 'Explosive' Found to Contain Water, While 'Gun' Is a Hair Curler

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—A young mother walked into the Drexel State Bank on the South Side today, threatened to blow it "sky high," and thereby forced the president to give her $5,000. A minute or so later she was captured by a daring Negro policeman.

The woman gave police half a dozen names, but her identity tonight appeared to be Mrs. Mary McCullom Schuch, 36 years old. Mrs. Schuch said that she was an unemployed nurse. She was taken to the State's Attorney's office for questioning by the prosecutor and an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mrs. Schuch appeared in the bank at about noon. Twenty-five or thirty customers were standing near the teller's cages. Without hesitation Mrs. Schuch walked up to the desk of R. J. Neal, president.

The woman told Mr. Neal that she wanted to talk to him about establishing a trust fund for her daughter, Cecelia, 9 years old, who attends a convent school near Chicago. As they talked Mrs. Schuch suddenly drew a letter from her purse and handed it to Mr. Neal.

Note Printed in Pencil

Printed in pencil on three pages of foolscap, the letter said that the woman was desperate for money. It declared that she carried a gun and two vials of full of nitro-glycerine. Outside the bank, the letter continued, were four men with machine guns and two cab drivers waiting to speed the gang to safety.

As Mr. Neal finished reading the startling document, Mrs. Schuch motioned with a hand in her pocket. It looked to Mr. Neal as if a gun were inside. With her other hand Mrs. Schuch drew out two small bottles containing a colorless liquid.

Mr. Neal looked toward the front of the bank. Peering in the window was a heavy-set man, wearing a cab driver's cap. Convinced that the woman was dangerous, Mr. Neal wrote a draft for $5,000. Mrs. Schuch accompanied him to a paying teller's window while he cashed it.

Taking the money, Mrs. Schuch stuffed it inside her shirtwaist and turned to go.

At that moment Policeman Chris Covington passed the bank president's desk. During the noon hour he usually enters the bank as part of his duties. He overheard Mrs. Schuch say to Mr. Neal after she had the money:

"It's a good thing you did this."

Whisper Warns Policeman

Then Mrs. Schuch started out of the bank and Mr. Neal whispered to Policeman Covington:

"Grab her. She's a robber, but be careful. She says she has some nitroglycerine."

The policeman followed Mrs. Schuch. As she stepped out of the front door he threw his arms around her, pinioning her arms to her side.

The supposed gun in her pocket turned out to be a hair curler. Police examined the two vials and found, they said, that these contained water.

Then the cab driver, who had been peering in the bank, was seized. He was Albert Evans, 35 years old. Mr. Evans said that he knew nothing of Mrs. Schuch's fantastic plot, but was waiting to be paid for the trip. Mr. Evans said that he had driven her to the bank on Tuesday and that she owed him $1 for that trip too.

"I owed at least $2,000 to the convent for my daughter's education," Mrs. Schuch told the State's Attorney's men. "I spent three weeks planning this as the only way I could get a new start. If I had succeeded I intended to repay the bank. But the best laid plans sometimes go astray."

Crime - 1938

Kentucky

White Men Fined For Deploring Police Brutality To Race Man

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—(SNS)—Two white men were fined in Police Court Tuesday for interfering with an officer in the performance of his duty."

Lou Weind, colored, had been arrested for alleged stealing. On his way to jail with the arresting officers he broke away and ran. He was trailed and caught by one Robert Kelly, white, 1743 South 34th street. He held him until the cops came.

Messrs. William Lutz and James Hart, white, said the cop was beating the man at 8th and Walnut street and they protested and tried to get his number. The officer's name is Salerenco. After putting the colored man in the wagon, he arrested his white protectors.

He claimed in court that Lutz tried to snatch his badge. Mr. Lutz and two white women witnesses denied this. Kelley testified for the cop and used the word "N——" continually. Judge Brachey fined Lutz $10 and Hart $2 which no doubt will discourage white "Good Samaritans" in the future.

Crime -1938 Louisiana.

GRAHAM CASE IS HEADED FOR STATE SUPREME COURT

By J. B. LAFOURCHE

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 1 — Attorneys for Frank Graham, who was assaulted and beaten on August 20, by eight men about 2:30 p. m., at Celeste and Tchoupitoulas streets, and whose petition was dismissed in the criminal district court the past week, served notice that they would take the case to the State Supreme Court on a writ of certiorari.

NAMED MANNY MOORE

Graham, according to the petition, stated that at the above mentioned time and place, he was assaulted by eight men, three of wrom he identified as Manny Moore, white, 5106 Conti street; Thomas Allen, white, and a third man known only as Morris, said to be members of the A. F. of L. after being assaulted by the trio stated Graham, he fled. Moore then fired at Graham with a sawed-off shotgun. The three alleged attackers then fled in a green Plymouth sedan bearing license plates number 119-161.

The petition likewise stated that Graham went to the 2nd precinct police station and complained, naming Moore as one of his assaulters. Capt. Wm. Dowie, commander in charge, said to Graham, according to the petition: "That's the American Federation of Labor. They have the power.' An attempt was made to reach Capt. Dowie, but he is now out of the city. Second precinct officials, however, denied that Captain Dowie had passed such a remark.

Moore and Leo. Carter are likewise charged in Judge Platt's division of the criminal court where they are to answer charges of assault, beating and wounding one Ben Harper. Moore is also free on a $2,500 bond, charged with shooting with the intent to kill Sidney Alexis, 1908 Orleans street, June 22 1938.

BEATS SHOOTING CHARGES

According to records in the criminal court's office, Moore ,who judging from his many arrests, has been used by the A. F. of L. chiefly to beat Negoes He was freed recently on a charge of assault, beating and wounding and additionally charged with shooting with the intent to murder Russel Haywood former A. F. of L. workman, but more recently an affiliate of the C. I .O

Haywood was shot in the left arm, beat on the head with a gun and baseball bat. The assaulters whom Haywood says was Moore, escaped in an automobile bearing a Texas license plate. Assistant District Attorney Rudolph Becker, according to the records refused to accept the affadivit against Moore.

Moore was also arrested in April during the Todd-ohnson Dry Dock strike in Hines Lane and Patterson street and charged with carrying a fully loaded revolver.

Seek Pardon For Girl Given Life At Age 15

NEW ORLEANS—(ANP)—Prominent citizens here, headed by Mrs. V. B. Thompson, superintendent W. E. and Frances Memorial Home and Mrs. Joseph Friend, well known Jewish philanthropist, are seeking either pardon or parole for Miss Mable Downs, who, 10 years ago, at the age of 15, was given a life sentence in prison for the murder of Louis Diggs.

According to court records, Miss Downs was charged with slaying Diggs in the Elite Restaurant on S. Rampart street in 1928. She was tried in Judge Henriques' division of the Criminal Court.

The severe sentence imposed on a 15-year-old girl brought a storm of protest from all sections of the city. Judge Henriques has since died. A petition in Miss Downs behalf is being circulated by friends.

La. Fair Promoter Arrested

Leaves Jail After Posting $1,000 Bond

By LEON LEWIS

NEW ORLEANS—(A N P)—Rev. W. Scott Chinn, president of the Louisiana Colored Fair Association, Inc., who was arrested in Jefferson parish on the last day of the Fair at Jefferson race track has been released on $1.000 bond. The charge placed against the minister was 'receiving goods under false pretenses.'

Authorized by the corporation that was promoting the fair, Rev. Chinn is alleged to have secured some household articles from a furniture company to be used in connection with the fair. The charges were made against Rev. Chinn and not the corporation of which he was president and by whose authority the security of these goods were made.

"HOLDING THE BAG'

Other members of the corporation did not take an active part in the promotion of the fair and all of the adverse advertisement were laid to him. He was held responsible for such mishaps as, delaying payment to program participants, allowing concessions to be controlled by whites forcing Negro concessionaries to set up on the outside and failure to have properly displayed the advancement of the race in all field of endeavor.

The idea of the fair was based on the emancipation celebration and observance of seventy-five years of progress of the Negro race. Programs and exhibits were to feature this from every perspective.

STOCK SOLD

When the idea was in its incipiency, a group of New Orleans business and professional men proceeded to sell stock into a fair corporation established in the late nineteenth century. It was found that this corporation had expired and the group immediately formed another corporation; this was effected in the first week of July approximately two months after stock fund had been paid into the extinct organization.

The promoters proceeded in their preparation for the fair without thoroughly explaining the differential between the old and new corporation. Rev. Chinn was 'chief officio' of all manipulations and was generally thought to be the sole promoter.

When any difficulty arose he was the one approached and responsibility laid to him. In the end he stood the embarrassment of being arrested and charged with a responsibility that was that of the corporation of which he is an official.

Crime - 1938

Michigan.

Beating Of Boy In Detroit Protested

DETROIT, Mich.,—The store at 768 Hastings street at Hancock Avenue, owned and operated by Assyrians was closed Saturday evening and pickeving began in front of the establishment, following the beating of a nine-year-old colored boy by the son of the proprietor of the store.

The injured youth, it is said was arguing with another lad outside the store, when the proprietor's son went out and struck the nine-year-old boy on the head inflicting painful wounds. The youngster was taken to the office of Dr. Jenkins, near by and given treatment.

The store is in a thickly populated colored district and is supported almost entirely by Negroes. There are several other successful Assyrian stores in the locality.

Following the disturbance, a large crowd formed in front of the store and some of the show windows were smashed with rocks.

Order Arrest Of John Roxborough In Policy Racket

DETROIT, Moch.—John Roxborough, co-manager of Joe Louis worlds heavyweight champion, was ordered arrested September 9, following raids on policy game "banks."

Everett Watson, real estate broker and manager of Roscoe Toles another Negro heavyweight, was also ordered arrested.

The police charge Roxborough is head of the "big four syndicate" bank from which officers took three adding machines, a pistol and 1,500 policy game slips.

Watson, police charged, is head of the "yellow dog syndicate."

Julian Black, Louis' other manager, was named recently by the Chicago Daily News as one of the "big four" in the numbers business in the Windy City.

Mob Of 3,000 Menace Man Who Beat Maid; Police Save His Life

Storekeeper Barely Escapes with His Life as Angered Race Group Storms Locale

DETROIT, Mich.—(SNS)—Albert Adleman, proprietor of a shoe store at 2308 E. Davidson owes his life to the quick action of the Davison Avenue police. A crowd of three thousand Negreos had gathered in the front of Adleman's store and was threatening to drag the man into the street and beat him. They hurled all kinds of threats to the man as he barricaded his door against their attack until police arrived.

The crowd had gathered answering to the calls of petitions distributed by the Unity and Civic Committee. The Committee had visited Adleman asking him about the treatment of a Negro maid in his house at Grant and Goddard Sts. According to the reports the storekeeper had beaten the maid and threw her into the streets Friday night when she had returned home late from a party with some colored boys.

The relationship between the maid and the businessman was very close this reporter learned from some of the witnesses. The crowd became more unruly when a Mr. Phillips ,a colored employment man, tried to quiet the crowd down. They took after him but he escaped unharmed under the protection of police.

This is the fifth time the Negro citizens of the North End have come to grips with the whites in a race strife. They seem to be well organized when a member of their race is mistreated.

SAY HUGE SUMS SENT WEEKLY TO VICTOR EMANUEL

Il Duce Aided Greatly by Motor City Racket

DETROIT, Mich., Sept. 28 (By Robert A. Crump for ANP)—Since the police here still have the heat on the numbers game, seemingly in a determined effort to break up the "clearing house racket" as raids continue, equipment seized, money confiscated and men arrested, the question arises, "What about the Italian lottery?" as that game goes unmolested.

A letter reported written to the police department said that in every Italian grocery store, shoe shop and other places writers of lottery are still reaping a harvest. In fact the game has gotten so good here that where the lottery drawings were formerly pulled once a week, each Saturday, they now pull three drawings a week thereby tripling their take.

Cash To Italy

It has been reported on seemingly good authority that more than $50,000 is sent out of this country weekly to Italy by Italian lottery players while the money from the numbers game as played and backed by the local operators stays in America and circulates in the city where it is operated.

The clearing house game was not without its romantic side. The populace played it openly with faith and humble prayer. Even in the churches on Sunday mornings people could be seen secretly copying the Hymnal numbers off the board, the numbers from which the scriptural text could be found were also memorized. Spiritualist churches openly gave out numbers at the services, and the churches were usually crowded.

Crime – 1938

Mississippi.

Holly Springs, Miss. Reporter
September 8, 1938

AN APPEAL TO THE NEGRO MINISTERS

My Fellow Ministers:

I am sure you are aware of the crime wave that has constantly swept over not alone Holly Springs but over our country for the past several years Aware as we are that it is our duty to preach the gospel, which is good news All Gospel is not found in the Bible. The Gospel is life and as we try to point people Heaven ward would it not be a good thing for us to point people earthward? May we say to Negro Youth "Take out of your pocket the knife or the gun that is used to take the life of a fellow being and that the law alone has the right to pocket a gun.

Too often we as a race find ourselves bitter toward our brother race, but often I am led to believe that the white man must save the Negro from himself.

Hardly a week passes without a cutting or in many cases a killing. Surely the Negro leadership has a word to say to our Youth. Said the young Gallilean to the hot headed young man Peter, "Put up your sword for he that fighteth with a sword shall perish with a sword". Likewise, he that uses as his weapon a knife, a gun, hatred and bitterness these too will destroy the hater.

Jesus uses as his weapon a towel, a helpful hand, kind words and love Maybe brethern, mabye a few words about living together in Marshall County will have a great bearing on the minds of our Youth. May we together try it out for a while at least?

Jesus said again. "I am come that you may have the abundant life." Life to the full, Life beyond the margin May we as fellow workers with him try to get this message over to our people. "Of curselves we can do nothing. but we can do all things thru Jesus Christ." "Love ye one another and so fulfill the law of God."

Yours truly, Rev. A. W. CRUMP

Jackson, Miss., News
December 7, 1938

Insurance Frauds Start New Check Of Negroes' Ages

Fifteen or twenty thousand old age pension cards in the State Public Welfare office here are being checked by workers in the bureau of vital statistics to prevent prevalent insurance frauds by negroes in Mississippi, Dr. R. N. Whitfield, state director of vital statistics, said today.

Dr. Whitfield's investigations have uncovered the fact that a number of negroes, whose death certificate list them as being from 40 to 55 years of age, evidently to conform to information furnished insurance companies, are actually over 65 and are drawing old age pensions.

Records in the Welfare office are correct, he says, and for this reason his workers are copying these records. Henceforth, all death certificates of negroes, listed as between 40 and 60 years of age, will get checked against the old age pension lists, to make certain frauds are not practiced against insurance companies, he said.

Dr. Whitfield is also notifying all undertakers in the state that, in making out death certificates, they must have the informant to sign the ~~cer~~ certificate, if they do not wish to be held accountable for the information listed.

Crime – 1938

Missouri.

NEGRO STATE PAROLE OFFICERS

Of those who recently took the examination for state parole officers, at least two Negro applicants successfully passed and by the rules of the game are qualified for appointment. One of the chief functions of a parole officer will be to supervise or follow up convicts released from the state penal institutions, and assist them in "going straight" and becoming useful citizens. This, we think is a most worthwhile service.

Inasmuch as almost forty percent of the inmates of the state penal institutions are colored, there should be at least two Negroes named as parole officers. It is our hope that Governor Stark, as Chief Executive of the state, will see to it that at least two Negroes are appointed for this most important work. There is not the slightest doubt in our mind that such colored officers can serve the colored parolees with more efficiency than their white brother officers of the same rank.

2ND WOMAN SAYS POLICE MAULED HER

Miss Estelle Freeman Is Sent to Hospital By Alleged Clubbing

The second case of alleged brutality of police toward a colored woman within a week came forth here Monday. The latest purported victim is Estelle Freeman, 44 years old, of 408 North Levee street. She was treated at Phillips Hospital Sunday morning for injuries which she says were sustained during a police gambling raid, about 3:30 a.m. at "Jessie's" Place, a restaurant, in the 200 block on Valentine St.

Bears Marks

A well built, light brown skin woman, weighing about 165 pounds, she bore a discolored eye and black and blue marks and scars on her legs and thighs. She also complained that her head and shoulder were injured and pained her.

When questioned by an Argus reporter, she stated that she was getting change for a dime to play a victrola when the police came in. One of them, whom she called "Sergeant Rowland," she averred, ordered her out and immediately struck her in the face knocking her down. Then she went outside and was followed by the officer who beat her with his night stick after she asked him if she could call a cab. During the time, she said he called her disgraceful names.

After she was beaten she recounted she went home. A short time later she was picked up by police and taken to the Central District Station, where she was kept for about two hours before being conveyed to the hospital. She was released from the hospital Monday and no charges preferred against her.

Atty. Clark Frazier is acting as counselor for Miss Freeman and it is understood that the NAACP will take up the case. The Association is already proceeding with action in the case of Ernestine McShan who was injured in an encounter with a young officer in the Municipal Court building May 3.

LEE BAKER: FINE CITIZEN.
(From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

Lee Baker went to court yesterday and pointed out Isadore Londe as the man who deliberately endangered human life by bombing a St. Louis cleaning shop last June 2. Lee Baker went there with his head bandaged and a patch extending down from his right eyebrow, a grim reminder that his right eye is gone. He went to court from the grave, as it were, for kidnapers seized him in Southeast Missouri a month ago, drove him to St. Louis County, shot him and left him for dead. His horrible experience, his long illness, did not shake Lee Baker. When asked if he saw the bomb thrower in court, he looked about slowly and then fixed his one eye on the gangster and exonerated criminal. "There he is," said Lee Baker.

St. Louis owes a debt of gratitude to Lee Baker. It owes him more than that. It owes him reimbursement insofar as that is possible for the loss of his eye—a loss attributable to the laxity of the Circuit Attorney's office, responsible for his protection. It owes him a means of livelihood after his recovery. A fund ought to be started as an expression of the community's appreciation. For in a time when Rat Alley rules and law officers neglect their duties, when courts and juries are the object of political and underworld pressure, this Negro has done his duty as a citizen. No one stands higher than he today in the rising fight for a gangster-free St. Louis.

The above editorial appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Friday, Dec. 16.

The text of this editorial is an expression of the sentiments of the St. Louis Argus in this case. We may further state that the St. Louis Post-Dispatch is regarded as the leading liberal metropolitan newspaper in St. Louis.

GOVERNOR ASKS CONTRIBUTIONS BY COMMUNITY

Baker, Still In Bandages, Points Out Londe In Crowded Court

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23—Louis Lee Baker, tenant farm worker who nearly lost his life in a typical gangland "ride" here on September 18, will be rewarded by the community for his testimony in the recent trial of five local labor terrorists.

This was revealed the past week when Congressman Thomas C. Henning Jr., as head of a special committee, requested that "all citizens who believe in courage" make contributions towards a fund for Baker.

In commending Baker's civic fortitude the state executive reviewed the manner in which this man, without hope of gain had faced death before guns of the city's worst element in order to bring a gang of vicious law-breakers to justice.

Kidnapped, Shot

Baker, star witness for the state, was kidnapped from police protection by two gangsters who after spiriting him into the country shot him twice in the head, leaving him for dead.

Miraculously recovering after this murderous attack, Baker made his way back to the city and after reuperating at the County hospital under heavy police guard, gave testimony into a labor bombing which sent Isadore Londe, white, former convict, to the penitentiary for 25 years.

Although identity of Baker's assailants is known to police a statewide search for the would-be assassins has to date proved futile.

Points Out Londe

Having lost one eye in the attempted assasination, Baker appeared in court Thursday with his head and half his face swathed in heavy folds of gauze

Crime—1938

New Jersey

Won't Stop Press Bias In Newark

Efforts by the New Jersey Urban League to induce the Newark Ledger, a white morning tabloid, to discontinue its practice of emphasizing the term "Negro" in its crime stories had apparently met with failure this week, as the paper continued its custom in a front-page story.

Pointing out that such articles "create ill-will between various race groups," the Urban League suggested that the paper "refrain from charging an individual crime to an entire race," in a letter to its managing editor earlier this month.

A reply last week to the League's letter contended, in part, that the paper's attitude was necessary "in helping to give an accurate description of the person sought."

It was also noted that in reporting the story of Doran Roach's electrocution last Wednesday, when a picture of Roach was also carried, the article read: "Doran Roach, husky Negro, who brutally murdered a Plainfield woman last March, paid for the crime last night."

Bruce's Release Believed Near

NEWARK, N.J. — Roscoe C Bruce, Jr., serving an eighteen-month sentence at Essex County Penitentiary, may walk the streets a free man sometime this week or next.

The board of pardons is weighing his application for parole among the scores of such applications from Essex County. A decision is expected any day. If precedent is upheld, announcement of the board's action will only be made if it is favorable.

Losing Weight

Meanwhile, a close friend of Bruce who recently visited him, observed that he has lost his excess weight and is now down to a comfortable 167 pounds. He formerly weighed over 200.

It was also learned that Bruce has at no time been personally served with papers in any action by his estranged wife, Mrs. Bessie Bruce. Mrs. Bruce is in Lynchburg, Va., her home, and has not contacted Bruce since she left him after his arrest.

In the same prison as Bruce, Daniel J. Winge, convicted of embezzlement in the same apartments in which Bruce staged his fake holdup, is taking on weight.

Crime - 1938

New York

Sheffield, Ala., Tri-Cities Daily
August 27, 1938

Arrests

ALTHOUGH comparatively more Negroes are arrested every year than white persons, for committing crimes, there are few Negro gangs in the country. Most of the crimes committed by colored persons are petty, except the large number of murders Negroes commit among themselves. And the number of these could be reduced if the police would try to capture the murderers.

In practically every city in the country, police simply keep up their arrest records by jailing a large number of Negroes. Seldom, however, is any actual drive made to prevent crimes among them. On the other hand, if a Negro allegedly commits a crime against a white person, the police get busy and bring the guilty one or some other hapless colored person into the lockup. Neil Dalton, managing editor of The Louisville Courier-Journal, admitted that the white policemen in his city were interested solely in arresting Negroes to make their records look good, but that they were not interested in preventing crimes within the Negro section of the city.

Two weeks ago a Negro baby was left on a Harlem doorstep by its mother. The case was turned over to a white detective to "break." A reporter from The Amsterdam News, in the act of making his regular check on the precinct, asked a Negro detective if the mother had been found. Taking an interest in the case as a result of the story told him by The Amsterdam News reporter, the Negro detective got busy and broke the case within twelve hours.

There was no reason that we can see why the white detective failed to find the mother in two weeks, if his colleague could do so in twelve hours. We were told that the white sleuth did not try hard to find the missing mother.

Such acts by either black or white enforcers of the law definitely cause an increase in crime, and as a result Negro citizens are branded a lawless people.

The only way to enforce the law in Harlem or any other section of the city or country is to enforce it impartially among all groups of citizens. No police commissioner or mayor can ever hope to clean up a city or section therein unless that is carried out. Too often collusion between the cops and the criminals exists in sections such as Harlem, since the inhabitants are more easily intimidated by both the cops and the criminals. Mere arrest records made by the police do not solve the crime problem in any part of a city. On the other hand, equal and impartial law enforcement in a city as a whole will go a long way toward doing so.

Negro Released as Cop Attacker Is Suspended

Tim Smith, 19-year-old Negro, won his freedom after seven months in jail yesterday when District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey announced that the youth had been convicted of assault on the perjured testimony of a beer-soaked policeman.

Simultaneously, Mr. Dewey said that he would seek a perjury indictment against Patrolman Theodore Steinblinsk. The examination of the case, Mr. Dewey said, indicated that it was the patrolman who attacked the youth rather than the reverse as Steinblinsk had charged.

Mr. Dewey said that the policeman had persuaded two friends to give false testimony against Smith because he was afraid he would lose his job unless Smith was convicted.

Released today by Judge Morris Koenig, Smith said, "Mr. Dewey is certainly giving the Negro people a square deal."

At the original trial of Smith last September before Judge Koenig, Steinblinck that he halted Smith for questioning at 127th St., near Lenox Ave. He swore that he was forced to knock a knife and a revolver from Smith's hands before he "subdued" him.

His story was supported by Michael Ciccone, 362 12th St., and Joseph Reilly, 350 14th St., Brooklyn. Both men said they were eye witnesses to the encounter and that they had never met the policeman before.

Mr. Dewey said his investigation had established that the three were old friends and that he had signed statements from the two witnesses that they had been drinking beer with the officer before he spotted the Negro on the curb and jumped out of the car and grabbed him.

Steinblinck was suspended Tuesday by Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine. During his seven years on the force he has faced 21 complaints including drunkenness and assault upon citizens. He had been subjected to numerous fines and reprimands.

5 Earned over $300,000 as Digit Bankers

Cash Stolen from Schultz Amassed by Harlem Barons

NEW YORK—The blistering cross examination of George Weinberg by Lloyd Paul Stryker at the James J. Hines policy trial has bared the following concerning the colored independent bankers who once dominated Harlem:

1. Of the $330,000 "bank balance" which Stryker contends Weinberg "stole" from Dutch Schultz, after the latter became a Federal fugitive, at least 75 per cent of this amount represented the profits of the banks operated by Alexander Pompez, Masjo Ison, Wilfred Brunder, Henry Miro and Marcial Flores.

Got Less Grilling

2. The colored bankers were not submitted to a grilling similar to that of Weinberg because none of them directly linked Hines to the racket in their testimony.

"Red" Williams, who "forgot" his expected line of testimony and went against District Attorney Dewey, saved himself a grilling as bad as Weinberg is getting. Although Williams lauguishes in the Tombs in $10,000 bail as a material witness, he as least escapes Stryker's blistering questions.

3. One purpose of the lengthy Weinberg grilling evidently was to frighten more of Dewey's witnesses who are called to link Hines and Schultz.

4. Weinberg said the numbers were fixed in Harlem by the now dead Otto Berman (Adda-Dabba) for 156 days at $10,000 a week Of this Pompez and Ison contributed $600 apiece.

Not on Inside

5. Despite the fact that they knew the game so well, Weinberg's testimony has shown the colored bankers were not taken on the "inside" of the alleged Schultz-Hines combination. This leaves open the question whether the colored bankers knew Hines was regarded as protecting the racket.

The Weinberg testimony tended to show that numbers proved more profitable to Schultz than his other rackets. J Richard Davis, No. 1 State's witness, introduced Schultz to the lush profits of the Harlem independents.

Red-haired Julius Williams, above, Negro election captain, was sent to the Tombs in $10,000 bail after he sensationally charged the office of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey with using force to obtain from him a signed statement accusing James J. Hines, Tammany politician who is being tried in New York on a numbers racket charge, of getting him—Williams—a $30 a week job with the policy ring. Called as a State witness in the Hines trial, Williams instead repudiated his statement and testimony before the Grand Jury. He is a member of Hines' political organization.

Numbers Kings Basked in Wealth and Beauty

Harlem Seldom Got Peek at Social Life of Colorful Group Mostly Foreign Born

NEW YORK—The James J. Hines trial has spotlighted the colorful group which ran the numbers game in Harlem before the Dutch Schultz regime and during it.

Most of the colored big shots in the game are of foreign origin. Most of them dress in gay colors and their clothes are expensive. The women who move like shadows in and out of the testimony are good looking and well dressed.

Story Never Told

The gay lives which the numbers kings used to lead in the old days have never been portrayed in detail in the social columns. They lived in that nether world of Harlem where the customs are somewhat different from ordinary colored American life.

A peep into this life is seldom gained by the average person, save at annual social affairs.

A study made a few years ago of the life of Harlem's Spanish and Puerto Rican colony showed that it is seldom one can enter the social life, which is centered in the homes of the people and not in big dances

Lotteries Open at Home

Out of this colony many of the numbers kings came. In their home countries lotteries were openly played and often with government sanction. It was natural they should take up the numbers game here.

Pompez testified that he entered the game because his family had always been connected with it. The game was begun in Harlem by a Puerto Rican, who later went broke and can be seen frequently walking between 110th and 116th Streets.

In this section of Harlem Pompez, Ison, Flores, Brunder Miro and others were the heroes of their people. The pride of these men made them battle Schultz as far as they could.

Rita Ran Bank

A peep into the social life of these kings of the numbers has bobbed up in the testimony concerning the glamorous Rita Munoz.

Although married, Henry Miro's constant companion in those days was Rita, who is also married. She was the controller in his bank and ran it while Miro was serving three years for income tax evasion.

Ison left for France, returned to plead guilty.

Brunder Promised 30%

Brunder was promised one-third of the $18,000 profits in his bank. He got none of them but was paid $100 weekly salary.

Miro also was promised a 40 per cent cut in the profits. He never received any profits.

So was Flores. Schultz failed to pay him anything but $75 salary.

Schultz Got the Money

In this way did Schultz run his policy empire by bringing together five major banks by force of arms, promising them a modern streamlined, protected racket from which all could make money.

The only persons who seemed to make big dough were Schultz himself who "borrowed" tens of thousands; Hines who according to Weinberg drew piles of gold in addition to his salary; and J. Richard Davis and Weinberg himself both of whom were pay-off men to Hines.

Weinberg Popular

Throughout Weinberg's testimony the names of the colored bankers came up. From what he said on the stand, Weinberg maintained a fairly popular relationship with these bankers.

Often he took their fight to the boss himself, such as in the matter of cutting controllers' commissions by 5 per cent.

No Cross Examination

Finally, the defense failed to cross-examine any of the parade of banker witnesses who preceded Weinberg on the stand. In the courtroom, listeners received the impression that the defense hesitated to try to tear down the testimony of these men for fear of further implicating Boss Hines.

Stryker, however, did not fail to attack the charges of Weinberg who took Stryker's questions with impassive calmness. Perhaps because the banker witnesses were colored, Stryker did not feel their testimony should be dignified by cross examination.

If that is the case, he failed to see that Weinberg's testimony was valueless without the strong foundation of description of the numbers game in Harlem so ably supplied by the independents who joined the combine only at the point of gang guns.

Schultz Cheap Numbers Guy

By HARRY B. WEBBER

NEW YORK—Why Harlem hated Dutch Schultz wa vividly told in the testimony last week falling from th ips of George Weinberg, No. 2 man in the Dutchman' olicy empire.

To the world-at-large the biggest sensation of the week was the spectacular action by defendant James J. Hines who called Weinberg a "liar" while the latter coolly underwent cross examination by Lloyd P. Stryker.

But to Harlem, Weinberg's long testimony only verified in court records that community's past conviction that Schultz was the real liar and the cheat who was invariably failing to pay off.

Passed Up Pay-Offs

When big hits on certain popular numbers came through and the Schultz bankroll was heavy, the numbers were paid. But when Schultz met reverses along other lines and needed cash, he casually ordered the banks to pass up the pay-offs. In the days when Pompez, Ison, Miro, Brunder and Flores ran their games independently these men went broke rather than welch on hits

Not so Schultz.

Schultz Was Cheap

And Schultz was cheap. For protection of a million dollar racket he paid, according to Weinberg, protection at the petty rate of $500 a week. Instead of giving those he forced at gun point into the combination fifty per cent of the profits, he offered only 35 per cent or less.

After taking the banks from Pompez and company he put them on comparatively low salaries per week—$50 to $200 These salaries are considered good in legitimate business and in the lower brackets of illegitimate business. But to heads of banks they seem rather shall.

Boys Cut Short

Then after promising a third or so of the profits to the independents he had forced to combine, Schultz failed to pay any profits to any of them. Weinberg testified, Tuesday, that neither Pompez, Ison, Brunder Miro or Flores got their promised share of profits.

Schultz failed to pay a big hit on his bank although at that time profit was $115,000 gross and $90,000 net.

Ison was to get one third of all profits and $200 a week. He got the salary but none of the profits. His bank showed $75,000 profit the first year. On January 13, 1937, Dewey raided his bank

Pompez was promised $250 weekly and 40 per cent of the profits. He received $75 weekly and none of the profits. He finally quit after

New York

Crime—1938

Arrests Reveal Thriving Digits Dope Probe Hits Smith

Report Government Investigating Case

NEW YORK—That the numbers game is going merrily on despite the James J. Hines trial was demonstrated on Friday night when police raided a bank on W. 144th Street and arrested two of District Attorney Thomas E. Dewey's witnesses.

Miss Willianna Hammond and Miss Lessie Ware, both of whom testified about working for Alexander Pompez, were held in $1000 bail each for Special Sessions.

Went to Italians

George Weinberg, white, testified last week that after the death of Dutch Schultz, who organized the numbers bankers and exacted tribute, that he continued the racket in 1935 and turned it over to "some Italians" the next year.

In these two years some Harlem groups were intensely anti-Italian because of the Ethiopian War. Had it been generally known that Italians ruled the numbers racket, a strong reaction would have resulted, Harlem observers say.

Caught in Borrowing

The game went under the domination of Dutch Schultz and his gunning aides because of heavy drain upon the bankers on Thanksgiving Day in 1932, when the players were betting heavily on 527. Pompez and others borrowed from Schultz, only to find that merely repaying did not square the score.

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.—As the 30-day racing season ended Saturday, Raymond Smith groom in the Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt stables, stood suspended while the State racing commission continued its probe of the doping of Vanderbilt's horse, Airlame, which ran in the fifth race here, last Wednesday.

Federal investigators are also reported working on the case, and if the drug charges is true, it is thought higher-ups will be held responsible rather than Smith.

J. H. Stotler, Vanderbilt's trainer, said that Smith had rendered satisfactory service during the seven years he has been in the employ of the stables.

Commission in Session

Horse-tampering charges of both the Vanderbilt entry, and Joseph E. Widener's Optic, have kept the racing commission in almost constant session conducting the investigation.

Smith's suspension has stirred up other colored grooms in the employ of the various stables.

Local Lawlessness

LAST SATURDAY AFTERNOON a young white woman was in the act of taking pictures for a magazine depicting street scenes at the Eighth Avenue pushcart market. A Negro man, for no reason at all, bawled out all of a sudden, "what's that white woman doing taking pictures up here?"

A woman pushcart owner immediately whirled around, accused the photographer of taking her picture, pulled the camera with such force that the strap holding it around the photographer's neck broke and then threw the camera to the ground, smashing it to smithereens. She also smashed the photographer in the mouth several times with her fist. The woman was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct after she had told a police sergeant that the photographer struck her first!

What makes this sort of lawlessness so serious and damaging in Harlem is the fact that there now seems to be united action on the part of many colored citizens here against any white person at any time and any place. Since the Harlem riot a little over three years ago, some Harlemites have determined to take the law into their own hands whenever anything arises that they do not like. This condition is so bad now that responsible white and colored citizens are actually afraid to walk in some streets in this section.

Meanwhile, the cops encourage this lawlessness by failing to arrest many of those guilty of assault. They complain that they are afraid of precipitating another riot. But as long as the police let this lawless condition exist here they are only adding more fuel to an already burning fire of lawlessness.

We are just as opposed to police brutality as we are to lawlessness. It is not brutal however, to enforce the law impartially for all of the citizens of the city regardless of color. Harlem does not belong to the blacks or whites. It belongs to the citizens of this city. Unfortunately, some Negro citizens labor under the illusion that it is theirs. The sooner this idea is dispelled and the lawless ones are punished for their crimes the better it will be for all persons living here. It is up to the citizens of Harlem and the cops to see that the law is enforced so that Harlem will not continue to be known as a notorious "city of Negroes."

Negro Leaders Welcome Hines Trial as Break In Tiger's Harlem Grip

Labor, Professional, Communist Spokesmen See Tammany Misrule in Area Exposed by Testimony—Credit LaGuardia's Role

By Ben Davis, Jr.

Outstanding Negro leaders welcome the Hines trial not only as a blow against racketeer-gangster fleecing of Harlem but also as an opportunity to break Tammany's long stranglehold on Harlem's political life.

Among those who expressed that opinion yesterday were: B. F. McLaurin, general organizer of the Brotherhood of the Sleeping Car Porters (A. F. of L.); James W. Ford, executive secretary of the Harlem Division of the Communist Party; Dr. Vernon H. Dubois, dentist; and Dr. Alber[illegible] Armstrong, physician. All are widely known in the Negro community having been associated with various labor and progressive movements.

"This trial offers a chance for Negroes to step in and gain control of their own political destiny. Now the people can see what kind of criminal activities Tammany has been carrying on to keep political control of Harlem. If the Negroes will unite to kick out the Tammany tiger they will find it much easier to advance their own interests by uniting with progressives throughout the city." stated McLaurin.

FORD'S STATEMENT

Ford pointed out that:

"The trial indicates the stranglehold Tammany has on the political, social and economic life of the city, particularly Harlem. An example of this is the 19th Assembly District, a predominantly Negro area, where Negro leadership in the Democratic Party has been blocked by the Tammany Hines-Perry combination.

"The whole trial should result in a sharpening of the fight for Negro rights. This is what the people voted for when they elected the progressive LaGuardia administration. It shows also that the progressive forces of the city must support the Negro people of Harlem, if Tammany Hall, with its city-wide corruption, is to be broken. The unity of people of the city around such broad progressive forces as the American Labor Party will be ever so much more effective if Tammany is dealt a death-blow in Harlem."

PERRY'S ROLE

Dr. Dubois expressed the opinion that the trial "ought to have the effect of opening up a vast highway of political progress for Harlem." Dr. Armstrong remarked that the "Hines trial shows the political corruption and racketeering in high places, and how Tammany has carried on both in Harlem to the detriment of the Negro."

No section of Harlem can think of the Hines trial without at the same time recalling the political situation in the 19th Assembly District where Negro leadership in the Democratic Party has long been blocked by Tammany Hall. The two persons most responsible for this situation are Jimmie Hines and Harry C. Perry, the present Tammany leader of this district.

In the 1937 city elections the Hines-Perry tin-box brigade retained leadership for Perry by dividing the votes of the Negro people in this District among five candidates. In such a split field, Perry was reelected.

Negroes realize that a break in the Hines empire at any point will help them to secure leadership in a district which is predominantly Negro. Then they can turn that leadership into such progressive channels as will use the political power of the Negroes to fight unemployment, discrimination, poor housing, and other special oppression in Harlem.

HARLEM KNOWS BETTER

Despite the high-pressure campaign of the capitalist press which severely defends Hines as a "benefactor of the poor" and a "hero of the average man," Harlem knows better. The 19th Assembly District in which the Hines-Perry Tammany leadership is still predominant, is blanketed with slums, and with its full share of poverty and suffering among Negroes.

Hines has never turned his hand to remedy these conditions and to sugest such an idea would get a big laugh from Harlem residents. The misery and discrimination in this area have grown steadily worse under Tammany leadership.

In the days when, according to the testimony of former Tammany boss John F. Curry, Tammany leaders were transferring, shifting and "breaking" policemen who did not protect the racket—those were the days when police brutality ran roughshod over the civil rights of the Harlem community.

GRAVY FOR GANGSTERS

The fact that several Negro witnesses testified as State's witnesses during the trial only indicates the almost incredible extent to which the numbers racket is at present gouging the people of Harlem of their nickels, dimes and pennies.

Although the numbers racket is played throughout the city, it is undoubtedly true that Harlem plays it more. That is due to the very simple reason that Harlem is hardest hit by the crisis, that its rents and general cost of living are highest, and that its income is lowest. As a result the people are pressed by circumstances into taking a chance on "hitting the numbers" with a penny or two cents, hoping that they may be lucky enough to pay the grocery bill, the light bill or the robber landlords.

The numbers racket is gravy for the Schultzes for they see that chances are about 800 to 1 against a "hit" and when the play is for a half dollar or more the "bankers," instead of paying off, disappear. The whole racket is rotten from beginning to end not only for its evident hoax but also because it serves as a basis for Tammany political corruption in Harlem.

ONE OF BEST "BREAKS"

Even the petty racketeers among the Negroes who did some of the work for the gangsters and racketeers in high places, felt the heavy hand of discrimination. For petty racketeers they remained, while the Schultz-Tammany tie up fleeced and robbed them as well as tens of thousands of other Negroes in Harlem.

Labor and progressives feel that the Hines trial, and its sweeping exposure of Tammany Hall, is one of the best "breaks" Harlem ever received. But they don't feel that is merly a "break" which shot up out of nowhere. The people of Harlem feel that they helped bring about that break when they helped elect progressive LaGuardia administration last November.

Leniency For Former Butler Requested Of Court By Dr. Angell

BUFFALO, N. Y.—A request by Dr. James Rowland Angell, former president of Yale University, for leniency toward his former butler, who had pleaded guilty to transporting a stolen car, was taken under advisement by Federal Judge Harold P. Burke, Tuesday.

Douglas A. Young, 28, and until eight months ago, Dr. Angell's second butler, pleaded guilty to a two-year-old indictment charging him with having driven a stolen car from Wheeling, West Va., to Niagara Falls, N. Y. Pending investigation by the probation department, Judge Burke postponed sentence until October 4.

FINES WOMAN ON ATTACK CHARGE

Magazine Photographer Abused by Peddler

Declaring that those who are engaged in the gathering of news in which the public has an interest must be protected, Magistrate Edgar Bromberger fined Mrs. Lucille Faison of 239 West 139th street, $25 in Heights Court last Friday for attacking Miss Hansel Mieth, photographer for Life Magazine, on September 3.

Mrs. Faison, who owns and operates a pushcart market with her husband at 143rd street and Eighth avenue, where the attack occurred, was charged by Miss Mieth with destroying a camera valued at $135 and striking her in the mouth. The photographer was taking pictures of the Eighth avenue pushcart market to be used by Life for a story concerning Negroes.

Magistrate Bromberger said: . . "The complainant is a photographer engaged in gathering photographs for news articles, news and magazines, and is under assignment from a representative magazine (Life). Irrespective of whether the pictures were taken with or without permission of the defendant the latter had absolutely no right to take the law into her own hands, to assault the complainant and to smash her camera as I am satisfied she did.

"Those who are engaged in gathering news in which the public has an interest and with respect to which it should be constantly informed, must be protected in and about their work. This extends to pictures, which are one of the means of education for the people of the country. A restriction in this work, an unreasonable restriction in this work, or the fear of physical injury in its prosecution, necessarily would limit and eventually seriously impair the educational advantages enjoyed by the people of this community.

"Irrespective, however, of any other question, the fact remains that the defendant had no right whatever to assault the complainant or to destroy her property."

Mrs. Faison was arrested by Patrolman Tom Bronson of the West 135th Street Station.

Crime- 1938

New York

NAACP CHARGES
POLICE BIAS
IN QUEEN'S RIOT

NEW YORK, Feb.--(CNA)- The trial of seven men, all charged with murder, resulting from a clash with a group of whites last Monday morning, opened this week before Judge Anthony Savarese in the Ridgewood (Queens County) Felony Court, with defense attorneys contending that the whites, who are charged only with disorderly conduct, must also be held on assault charges.

Crusader News agency 1-31-38

The men are being defended by William T. Garvin, counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored P eople, and Louis Roth of Queens. The defendants are all residents of Jamaica, Queens. They were arrested following the death of Robert Thomas, white, 22, at 4 A. M. Monday when a crowd of white men and women attacked a group of Negroes during a dispute which arose over their parked automobiles.

newyork Mirror

None of the white participants in the fight was charged with anyt ing more serious than disorderly conduct, despite the fact that police arrested them on the scene of the clash while it was still in progress and failure of the police to trace the fatal stabbing to any of the Negro defendants.

Dr. John A. Singleton, presidentof the J amaica Branch of the N . A. A. C. P., declared that the charges against the seven men amounted to "rank discrimination, " and said that unfair and brutal treatment of Negroes by the Jamaica police was "nothing new."

The fight occured at 105th Avenue and 171st Street, South Jamaica, during the early hours of Monday morning when two house parties, one Negro and the other white, b oke up simultaneously in the neighborhood.

The defen ants are: Riley Tennyson, 21., James M anley, 35., Samuel Murray, 41., Clar nce Hedon, 35., Thomas Tucker, 31., Rudolph Raspberry, 29., and William Miller, 32.

Negro Group Charges Bias By Police in Queens Riot

Negroes Charged with Murder as Whites Are Released

Seven Negro workers, all residents of Jamaica, were held last night on charges of homicide, felonious assault and disorderly conduct following the death of Robert Thomas, white, 22 at, at 4 A.M. Monday when a crowd of white men and women attacked a group of Negroes during a dispute which arose over their parked automobiles.

Although all evidence gathered by the Daily Worker yesterday indicated that the fatal stabbing could not be traced to any of the Negro defendants now being held, Jamaica police were nevertheless holding the seven Negroes on tentative charges of homicide and felonious assault.

None of the white participants in the fight was charged with anything more serious than disorderly conduct, despite the fact that police arrested them on the scene of the clash while it was still in progress.

"DISCRIMINATION"

Dr. John A. Singleton, president of the Jamaica Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, declared that the charges against the seven men amounted to "rank discrimination" and said that unfair and brutal treatment of Negroes by the Jamaica police was "nothing new."

The fight occurred at 105th Ave., and 171st St., South Jamaica, during the early hours of Monday morning when two house parties, one Negro and the other white, broke up simultaneously in the neighborhood.

Scattered evidence from eye-witnesses of the bloody fight had it that the struggle took place when an argument arose over the removal of parked cars of the two groups. Negro residents in the area, awakened by the fighting, said that the whites became abusive and that the fight ensued.

EIGHT HURT

Eight of the forty men and women involved were injured by knives and other weapons. They were James Manly, 35, Negro longshoreman; Riley Tennyson, 21, Negro chauffeur; Samuel Murray, 41, Negro tailor; George Miller, 39, white, Theodore Dausch, 29, white, William Miller, 32, Eugene Woods, 27, and Robert Thomas, who died five hours later at the Mary Immaculate Hospital.

Those held on homicide and felonious assault charges in addition to the injured Tennyson, Manley and Murray, were Clarence Hedon, 35, Negro waiter, Thomas Tucker, 31, Negro chauffeur, and Rudolph Raspberry, 29, Negro chauffeur.

Dr. Singleton, who immediately began a probe into the incident, said that the N.A.A.C.P. had assigned William T. Garvin, attorney for the organization to the case.

TYPICAL OF TREATMENT

Attorney Garvin began his investigation last night but could not be reached for comment.

The Negro local N.A.A.C.P. leader asserted, during an interview with the Daily Worker, that the holding of the seven Negro men on serious charges, while entering a charge of disorderly conduct against the white participants was typical of police treatment of Negroes in the Jamaica area.

"We intend to fight any injustice in this case to the finish," he declared.

The Negro defendants were arraigned yesterday before Magistrate Anthony P. Savarese in Ridgewood, Queens. All were held without bail on the homicide charge, $1,000 bail each on the felonious assault charge, and $500 bail each on the charge of disorderly conduct for hearing Thursday.

DEWEY'S PROBE UNCOVERS PLOT

Two Harlem Undertakers Are Involved

The activities of an undertakers' forgery and conspiracy ring which defrauded families of several thousands of dollars yearly was brought to light last week when Thomas V. Turner, undertaker, of 128 West 136th street, and his assistant, Bernard Price, of 100 West 138th street, pleaded guilty to charges of perjury and forging the name of Mrs. Mildred Chambers, deceased, to a will.

The case was heard before Judge William Allen in General Sessions Court last Thursday.

According to District Attorney Dewey's office, Surrogate Delehanty had suspected the activities of some Harlem undertakers, who in handling the affairs of their clients actually "practice law and in many instances, through forged documents and perjury, defraud the estates of the dead."

The will of Mrs. Chambers was, Surrogate Delehanty complained to the district attorney, a clear case of fraud and perjury.

Investigation by the district attorney's office disclosed that Mrs. Chambers died without making a will, and that the will which was filed for probate September 21, 1937, by Price and supposed to have been drawn on November 30, 1933, was fraudulent, because it was written on a form which the printer declared was printed in January 1937.

Because the accused undertaker and his helper pleaded guilty to the charge of perjury in the second degree, which covered the other charges of forgery and conspiracy, it was said, the district attorney and the court are without any evidence of the motive in the crime.

However the belief was expressed that since the Chambers estate was very small and the deceased's husband, James, cannot read or write and was shown to have had no connection with the making of the will, the action of Turner was taken to assure payment for his services. Because of this aspect of the case, it is believed that both men will get off with light or suspended sentences when they come up before Judge Allen on June 30.

FLATLY DENIES ANY PREJUDICE IN CIVIC GROUP

Amsterdam News
1-22-38

Sumner A. Sirtl Is Chief Witness at Private Hearing

New York Post

Flatly denying that he is **the head** of the vigilante **movement** in Brooklyn di**rected against** Negroes, and **blaming** The Amsterdam **News** for the widespread be**lief** that the Midtown Civic **League,** of which he is presi**dent,** is anti-Negro, Sumner A. Sirtl testified Friday be**fore** the New York State Temporary Commission on the Condition of the Urban Colored Population that the purpose of his organization is "to better conditions in our section and to stabilize real estate values."

Sirtl was charged with leading a **vigilante** movement by Malcolm Martin, a Brooklyn relief worker and representative of the National Negro Congress, when the latter testified before the State Temporary Commission in December.

At that time Mr. Martin declared: "Members of the gang appeared en masse at the police department for pistol permits. A concerted effort is being made to make things really uncomfortable for Negroes in Brooklyn.

"Houses vacated by whites in the heart of the Negro area are boarded up, and even an empty white church on the market for sale was refused to a Negro Congregation because Sirtl raised a rumpus," he added.

Friday's private hearing in the offices of the commission, 36 West Forty-fourth street, was arranged because Mr. Sirtl did not answer the subpoena to appear at the public hearing in December.

Although Negroes are residents in the area of the Midtown Civic League, it was disclosed that there are no Negro members in the organization. The reason, according to Mr. Sirtl, being that no Negroes had applied for membership.

After an exchange of words regarding the supposed exclusion of Negroes from membership in the Midtown Civic League, Chairman Herman asked Mr. Sirtl: "Do you want this commission to infer that your organization will admit Negroes into its ranks if they apply?" "Yes," was the answer.

"Is there any clause in the constitution of the league which prohibits Negroes from joining your organization?' was the second question. "No," came the sharp reply.

The central feature of Mr. Sirtl's testimony was the the influx of Negroes in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn had decreased real estate values and created a crime wave which, at one time, became a serious problem.

He Changes Influx

In addition, Mr. Sirtl was much disturbed by the large number of Negroes on relief in Brooklyn. He charged that Negroes were being brought from the South and put on relief because New York paid a larger dole than any other section in the country.

The Rev. John H. Johnson, a member of the commission, questioned Mr. Sirtl at length to ascertain if he had any specific cases in mind—but he said his information came from "general talk among people."

E. B. Weatherless, president of the Fulton-Macon Civic Association, a Negro group, also testified that his organization was formed "to develop better housing, proper recreation for children, improvement in educational facilities, tone and atmosphere of the section, and adequate police protection."

Mr. Weatherless, who is also membership secretary of the Carlton avenue Y. M. C. A., testified that in the work of his association, he "secured the cooperation of white and colored citizens. We do not restrict members because of race, creed, or color."

Continuing his testimony in answer to Chairman Herman and Vice-Chairman William T. Andrews, Mr. Weatherless said: "It has come to the attention of the association that certain vigilante committees have been formed. In understand that in a series of articles printed in The American that a vigilante committee had been formed and Mr. Sirtl was connected with it. I think there was a picture of Mr. Sirtl at target practice."

Recalled to the witness stand, Mr. Sirtl said, among other things:

"In reference to the picture of me at target practice, I want to say that many of the citizens applied for pistol permits. A man who has been held up wants to protect himself. It seems that the criminal can always get ways to defend himself but the legitimate citizen must call upon outsiders before he can get it.

"In applying for pistol permits some of our members got them—others did not. Others wanted to know what kind of pistol to buy. We went to the armory to get lessons in shooting and to see the various kinds of pistols.

"While we were there, a photographer turned up and snapped my picture. We decided that if we did not get the police protection that we were asking for, the men would escort the women to and from the subway. In the ensuing publicity that arose from all this, we got more policemen in one precinct than in a great many combined. Now there is less feeling on the part of the citizens."

Commission to Report Soon

The hearing on Friday, which brought to an end more than six weeks of public and private hearings, was closed by the following statement by Chairman Herman: "We had a meeting of the commission today and hope to draft our report and have it ready by the first of February.

"We had a thorough discussion of the commission's work and got the reaction of the different members. We feel that our report will definitely substantiate the need for a continuation of this commission. We don't intend to infer that we want the commission to be a permanent body, but we feel there is need for it to be extended for another year."

Vigilante? Oh, No!

AIMED HIS PISTOL in target practice, he admits, but denies that he did so in connection with his alleged big shot position with Brooklyn's much-discussed "vigilante" movement, which residents there insist was aimed at curbing "Negro criminals" terrorizing the neighborhood. Above, Sumner Sirtl, named as the vigilante head, with his attorney, and E. B. Weatherless, who testified agaainst Sirtl and his band.

Knoxville Tenn. Journal
November 28, 1938

'Fats' Waller Takes Part In Free-For-All

NEW YORK, Nov. 27 (AP)—Two unidentified white girls who sought the autograph of Thomas (Fats) Waller, Negro orchestra leader, precipitated a free-for-all fight early today in which Waller's brother, Edward, was shot twice and seriously wounded and Thomas Kehoe, 22, one of the girls' escorts, was severely beaten.

The orchestra leader and his brother had just left a Harlem night club when the two girls approached them. Police said Kehoe and a man in his party resented the girls' action and began to abuse them.

Edward Waller protested. Words were passed and the fight started. Patrons of the night club joined the Wallers. During the confusion the two girls and their other escort fled.

Edward Waller was shot in the left leg and in the pelvis. Kehoe, beaten into unconsciousness, was charged with felonious assault and violation of the Sullivan (firearms possession) law. He suffered internal injuries and a possible skull fracture.

Crime–1938

North Carolina

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
January 2, 1938

Praise For Police

Raleigh police, as represented by Lieut. Joe E. Lowe and Capt. Bruce Poole, showed commendable self-restraint and the coolness which should always be the mark of the good officer in the case in which Lieut. Lowe was seriously wounded by a shooting Negress here last week.

The facts are that the Negro woman, whom the officers undertook to arrest in a Negro house in the presence of several Negroes who were hostile to the officers, was armed with two loaded pistols. She drew one which the officers took away from her. Then she drew the other and shot Lowe. Instead of drawing his own gun and shooting the woman as many an officer would have done, Capt. Poole disarmed her and prevented more shooting. The woman was not touched by any police weapon. She is in jail waiting trial and punishment by the courts.

The News and Observer upon occasion has found it necessary to condemn the quick and careless shooting of Negroes by police officers. Here is a case where restraint and courage deserve praise.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
January 7, 1938

Tired State?

The crime charged against North Carolina is apparently one of omission but it is nevertheless serious.

North Carolina has indulged in no new lynchings of Negroes; industrial relations in this State have erupted in no repetition of the ugly times in Gastonia and Marion.

North Carolina's crime, as charged by *The Baltimore Evening Sun*, is the capital one of standing still.

Under the heading, "Upsets," *The Evening Sun* the other day said:

Things are obviously changing swiftly in the South. For years Mississippi has suffered the ill fame of being the worst State in the Union measured by almost any sort of statistics; but recently Florida has been doing things—for example, three lynchings against Mississippi's two, outbreaks of Ku Kluxism, of official terrorism and of lawless fanaticism—that seem designed to push Mississippi out of the cellar position.

On the other hand, North Carolina for years has enjoyed the reputation of being the first State in the South as far as a rise in the general level of civilization is concerned. But today Alabama is unquestionably giving Tarheelia a battle for the leadership.

Yesterday, for example, Alabama not only repudiated, but repudiated emphatically an effort of her most celebrated demagogue to return to power. But before that she had endured with surprising fortitude the endless ordeal of the Scottsboro case, which originated in Scottsboro's determination to have no lynching.

These things not only command admiration, but raise a question as to the justice of looking on North Carolina any longer as the leader of the South. Certainly if Tarheelia intends to retain her position she had better show some speed.

If North Carolina is slipping, a quarter of a million dollars for advertising will not save it. It may, indeed, only make the slipping more apparent to the world. It is ironical that when Irvin Cobb said that all this State needed was a press agent that it had none, but nevertheless its University, its roads, the more pleasant aspects of its industrial growth its vital justice as a State in dealing with Negroes, its welfare activities and other stirrings in North Carolina were noticed and published far and wide.

But in recent years the one item that has received the most widespread publicity had to do with the loss of their feet by two Negroes in a prison camp. This event was not characteristic of the life of the State but the fact that it sticks out in memory of the news indicates the barrenness of the years in which it occurred. Persons reading it alone in Boston or Ypsilanti might conclude erroniously that North Carolina had descended from a pinnacle to a barbarism. They would be mistaken. If North Carolina has changed, it has been from a stirring to a sitting. And if as a State we are wearied, worn out or wasted, such a state of mind is more costly than a quarter of a million dollars for advertising.

Our condition has been noticed from without; it is time that we began at least to consider it within.

Montgomery Advertiser
May 23, 1933

Notes On Justice

It's a far cry from Uncle Tom's Cabin, this incident that follows, and the Yankees probably won't believe it yet. But it happened.

A white farmer in Mecklenburg swore out a warrant against his Negro tenant charging assault with a deadly weapon. The case was heard in County Recorder's Court, and during the testimony the Judge—Hunter, by name—discovered to his own satisfaction that the white man had provoked the trouble and had been the aggressor. Summarily, as is the way in these lesser courts, he ruled that the warrant was "frivolous and malicious," and popped a $50 fine on the white landlord for trespassing.

A thing that the Yanks can't understand is that Southern courts, as a rule, will lean over backwards to make sure that in a case involving both races the Negro gets justice. This doesn't mean that the black man will come free in a majority of his appearances, for frequently guilt sticks out all over him. Nor does it means that the police aren't, all too often, needlessly rough in making arrests, a characteristic which is only partly ameliorated by the unruliness of the kind of colored people with whom they have to deal.

But the courts—both civil and criminal courts above the magistrate courts—take pains to see that the Negro is not victimized by his superiors. —Charlotte News.

CIVILIZED!

We suspect that almost any other American governor would have acted as he did, but it remained for Governor Hoey of North Carolina to have the opportunity to do the needful, and to express his reason for doing it in an impressive manner. In commenting on his commutation of the penalty of a Negro, sentenced to die for an act of rape, the governor of North Carolina said:

I can not consent for North Carolina to kill a child, white or black, in the name of the law. The crime was atrocious. And so, likewise, would be the punishment, in my opinion, if a person of the age of 15 were to be executed.

All persons of civilized instincts will applaud Governor Hoey.

Now 470 Whites On Probation

More Whites Than Negroes On Probation In North Carolina

SHOULD SHAME WHITES

A selected article in The Uplift tells the following story of the delinquencies of many of our white citizens:

At the end of April there were 470 white males under the supervision of the North Carolina probation commission, a new agency provided for by the 1937 Legislature. There were only ninety negro males. Hence for every negro male placed on probation in the local and superior courts of the state a little more than five white males received the same treatment.

In the 1930 census the white population outnumbered the negro population approximately 2.4 times. Yet there are more than twice as many white males under probation in proportion to the relative population of the two races. These figures would seem to shame the white youth of North Carolina. Certainly they contain striking evidence to support a feeling of pride among the negro youth and among those wise leaders of their race who have built up in them new habits of pride and lawabiding citizenship.

The progress of public education in the past quarter century has been more rapid among the whites than among the negros of the State. It has only been during the past half dozen years that the negro boys and girls of North Carolina have been brought within the range of public school facilities comparable with those of the average white child. Maybe education is having a better result upon the negro youth than upon the white. At least it is probably drawing forth appreciation.

It might be argued by some that the courts are sending the negro males to the roads and giving the white males a better break under the new probation system. But those who would argue such have probably not noticed the attitude of the average judge in North Carolina toward the members of this race in recent years. Frequent and warm has been the praise that the judges of our superior courts have heaped upon the negro race during the past score of years, as the dockets from court to court have shown gradual decrease of negro defendants and an increase in white defendants, sometimes almost to the stage of public alarm. This very attitude would acquaint the judiciary of North Carolina of even the suspicion of partiality in alloting the benefits of this law.

Monroe, N. C. Enquirer
July 14, 1938

More Whites Than Negroes On Probation In North Carolina

A selected article in The Uplift tells the following story of the delinquencies of many of our white citizens:

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Wadesboro, N. C., Intelligencer
July 21, 1938

NOW 470 WHITES IN PROBATION

More Whites Than Negroes On Probation In North Carolina — Should Shame Whites.

A selected article in The Uplift tells the following story of the delinquencies of many of our white citizens:

At the end of April there were 470 white males under the supervision of the North Carolina probation commission, a new agency provided for by the 1937 Legislature. There were only ninety negro males. Hence for every negro male placed on probation in the local and superior courts of the state a little more than five white males received the same treatment.

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Dunn, N. C. Dispatch
September 6, 1938

Crime in Harnett.

Anyone familiar with conditions in other counties of North Carolina might conclude that Harnett is not any more wicked than the average, but from the information we have at hand it appears to us that what would otherwise be the ideal place in which to live is entirely too acquainted with crime.

Crime of every sort from petty larceny to murder is paraded through the courts in this section too frequently, and often those involved are never held for an investigation by the Grand Jury much less tried for their acts.

There are two remedies for the condition found here. One way is to make delinquents pay the maximum penalty after the acts, and another is to get at the seat of the trouble and by education and influence of the churches lessen the number of crimes perpetratd. The latter is the hard way, although we are encouraged by recent developments along that line.

Perhaps we are overwrought and view with too much alarm the number of violent deaths occurring in Harnett County. Our view may be the extreme one, and a distorted picture of events projects itself upon us. However, eight deaths from automobile accidents this year; a Negro dying from "suspected homicidal poisoning" last month; another Negro killed in his tracks by a shotgun blast, and a white youth shot fleeing from a filling station last week are enough to make citizens of this section stop and consider.

Officers in Harnett are vigilant, and have enough to occupy their time with routine affairs. They can not be blamed for crimes committed, and the law breakers running rampant over the county. Their duty is to enforce the law, and arrest those charged with crime while fulfilling their duty as a protective agency for honest, law abiding citizens.

But there appears to be a lack of initiative in investigating, and cooperation between the solicitors, coroner and police.

We refer specifically to the death of a local Negro whose death certificate read "suspected homicidal poisoning," and the coroner's investigation of the fatal shooting of another Negro.

The case of the Negro suspected poisoned was turned over to the coroner of Harnett County, after an autopsy was made by doctors at the hospital in which he died. The matter was dropped by the coroner and the Negro buried without a chemical analysis being made of the internal organs.

In the other case, the version of the shooting given by the man who shot the Negro was accepted and he was freed by the coroner's jury. We do not question that the shooting was justified, but after it was disclosed the two men had an argument over a sum of money it seems logical to us that the amount of money that was involved would have been brought out at the inquest.

Not too thorough investigations and clever defenses by defendants is indicated. Meanwhile. crime marches on.

Mistaken Identity Case May Aid Negro

RALEIGH, N. C., Oct. 27—(AP)—State Paroles Commissioner Edwin Gill said today that Mrs. Sarah Lyles Britt, of Chadbourn had voluntarily notified him that she had made a mistake in her identification of a negro who was sentenced to death for first degree burglary.

The negro, Charles Smith, was convicted in August, 1936, but the death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment and now he is in state's prison here.

Gill said Mrs. Britt, a prosecuting witness, wrote him: "Charles Smith is innocent. I admit I made a mistake. I did not realize I was doing it. I was scared to admit it. After I got married, I realized I was doing wrong to keep a man in. My husband and I got together and decided to get him turned out."

Gill said he planned to confer with the trial judge, M. V. Barnhill, now a State Supreme Court justice, and the trial solicitor.

First-degree burglary is punishable by death in North Carolina.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Y. M. C. A. TAKES LEAD IN PRACTICAL EFFORT TO REDUCE CRIME RATE

Rate Drops 50 Per Cent After Organization — Accepts Responsibility In Its District and Pushes Active Program To Cut Down Figures.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Dec. 15—(Special)—A reduction of approximately 50 per cent in crime among members of the Negro race, especially juveniles whose arrest for petty offenses was previously all too frequent, has occurred in that section of the city in which the East Second Street branch building of the local Negro Y. M. C. A., is located, although it has been in operation for only a little over two years.

Courier 12-17-38

This remarkable crime decrease was reported among other progressive results obtained through the widening of the scope and influence of the organization in the Negro residential and business sections of the city, by the Negro Division of the Y. M. C. A., at a general staff meeting of the Association held here Sunday.

The report which was read by J. S. Bowser, representing the Board of Directors of the Negro Division, stated that the Division is cooperating with the Juvenile Court in sponsoring first offenders found guilty of minor infractions of the law and placed on probation, and is maintaining boys' clubs in both high schools and grammar schools.

Crime - 1938

Ohio

Thrown to the Wolves

Eagle 2-25-38

THE remarkable case of a convicted man establishing his innocence from a prison cell, throws a revealing light on a condition that has been the cause of undercurrent dissatisfaction for many months in the ranks of Race attorneys in this city. Cleveland, Ohio

The case of Ferguson Gates, whose court-appointed white lawyer, rather than expend the effort necessary to check his penniless client's alibi; advised him to plead guilty in the hope of a suspended sentence, is pointed to by Race attorneys as illustrative of the frequent result of the use of favoritism in the appointment of counsel by certain judges who, these lawyers claim, seek out their friends—or friend's friends—to award these lucrative appointive cases.

Surely some method can be devised that would insure that, though penniless, an accused person could be certain of competent, ethical legal representation in the courts.

It is entirely possible that one of the city's many able Negro attorneys would have saved the county time and money if appointed to defend Gates, who has his freedom only because a sympathetic woman official in the Prosecutor's office listened to a plea written from his cell.

ALABAMA FUGITIVE ESCAPES
(From Yesterday's Final Edition)

DAYTON, Ohio, Sept. 20—(AP)—Roy Gotier, 28, Negro fugitive from an Alabama road gang, and his unidentified Chicago attorney fled unnoticed from Common Pleas Court Tuesday after Judge Franklin G. Krehbriel ruled an Ohio extradition warrant had been served illegally by T. G. Williams, Alabama state transfer agent. Krehbriel said the warrant for Gotier, alias James Burrows, should have been served by Montgomery County's sheriff. Before the warrant could be revised, Gotier and the lawyer had disappeared. Gotier escaped from Alabama after serving a year of a 10-year term for assault to murder

Crime - 1938

Oklahoma

White Men Jailed With Negro Women

Black Dispatch

1-22-38

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Negro women caged with white men in the same run-around, while Negro men were penned off in another ail section, was the ugly picture which faced Rev. F. C. Scott, national sueprintendent of Sunday schools of the Church of the Living God, when he visited Earle, Arkansas. Rev. Scott lives at 1010 Northeast Eighth street, Oklahoma City.

"I was never so surprised in my life", declared Rev. Scott, when interviewed on the subject, "when I went to the jail to hold an interview with the mayor in connection with some grading and drainage of street in the Negro section of Earle. One of our churches is located in this section and I was interested in developing the district." I had been told I would find the mayor at the jail.

Black

"The building I approached was a one-story brick. I went to the the rear of the structure as directed and found some iron bars, but no door. As I looked through I saw a Negro woman in a blue one-piece dress. I asked her was she in jail, and just about that time I saw a white man also.

1-22-38

Oklahoma City, Okla.

"Can't you see I'm in jail," she said. "What do you suppose I'm doing here. Before he left, Scott said he saw three or four white men in the same run around, one of whom was obviously drunk.

Inquiry down in the city later disclosed that it is the regular practice at Eearle to jail the Negro women with white men. Negro men are segregated to themselves

Program of Protest Is Negro Salvation

"Refuse To Arbitrate" General Tenor Of Replies To Dr. John P. Turner Radio Appeal To Lessen Number Of Protest Meetings

THE FACT that Dr. Turner believes that the criminal Negro hurts our group is proof of the bias of the whites toward us.—because the biggest thugs are among the whites and nobody suffers—not even the thugs. Tribune 12 22-38

Almost daily we read about white women and girls who openly work with hold-up men. But just try to imagine the adverse propaganda that would be loosed against the race if colored women did the same thing.

Dr. Turner, a police surgeon, should remember that a Negro criminal is always easier to catch and easier to punish than a white criminal. It is also easier to create sentiment against both him and the race. Compare, for example, the carefully worked up feeling in the Willie Brown case of a few years ago with the attempted soft-pedalling of the Glenn-O'Connor case of a few months ago. The "works" are always against a black person accused of crime.

AIDS WHITE CRIMINAL

Nearly every agency aids and abets the white criminal. Only a day or so ago a white afternoon paper carried an account of a white woman caught helping in a hold-up. Right away the paper said she was stealing to feed her six children. Nothing, however, was said about the sixteen or eighteen-dollar welfare check she got; and nothing was said about the wonderful example she was setting those six dependent children.

Then take the parole racket. White criminals go in the front doors of our prisons and out the back doors. Not ten per cent of them serve out their terms. Now if Negroes don't begin to protest and to protest effectively pretty soon only their group will be behind prison bars.

JUSTICE

MAY I congratulate THE TRIBUNE on this fine gesture: such journalism causes people to THINK; think along lines worthwhile. YES: quite a few rooms in our house (The Colored Group) need cleaning. When we shall have done this we may be in a position to help other groups do some cleaning, some much-needed cleaning. We must not stop our efforts with merely Race interests.

YES: the sane leaders of both groups, white and colored should think through common problems before the masses are allowed to become whipped into a frenzy over them by a leadership which likes to see mass madness.

Mass consideration is too likely to get from under the control of the leaders, and finally the program has been entirely changed and leaders are compelled to foster a dangerous proposition. Then it is, that the leader is being driven by the frenzied mob; and is merely posing as the leader. Too dangerous!

"SANE GROUP" NEEDED

Dr. Turner suggests that "a sane" group shall adjust differences. I heartily agree that "a sane" group must be formed. The personnel on both sides must be those who see humanity as a bigger consideration than themselves as individuals or their race. Only such persons can compose "a sane" group.

A group of condescending white people and flattered Negroes cannot act sanely. The same people on every committee, to decide every issue, soon become believers in their indespensibility and saneness is likely to be lacking, finally. A sane committee will always feel that there are those just as efficient as themselves out among the masses; somewhere.

We can trust a sane committee: But not the masses; yet.

Theodore R. Penney

IN HEWING down the wall of racial prejudice and misunderstanding, I must disagree with Dr. John P. Turner. First of all, his reasoning is fallacious. The Negro race is no worse morally than any other race. It is true that we, like every other race, must ever keep the searchlight within our own ranks but this in itself does little in ameliorating strained relationship of race. For, unfortunately, the whites have a tendency to judge all Negroes in types—and not as human beings. "Tom" is either good or bad—or unusually smart for a Negro, and here the white man's thinking stops. This has led to a misjudgment of the race as a whole.

REFUSE TO ARBITRATE

Secondly, the idea of leaders of both races getting together over a table of arbitration is all right. BUT those whites who inflict injury and are the perpetrators of injustice on Negroes, are the very ones who refuse to arbitrate, who, for instance, could hold a conference with the leaders of a lynch mob.

The Negro must continue to climb that ladder of equality, by protest, education and character, and must employ all the legal means possible to win for himself and his posterity his rightful place in the world. Conferences yes, but strategy more!

Rev. L. Charles Gray, pastor
Faith Presbyterian Church,
Germantown

Crime - 1938

Police Brutality.

SUING FOR FALSE ARREST

Mickey Ricketts of Houston, Texas, is setting a precelent which we hope more Negroes everywhere will follow.

Mr. Ricketts is filing suit for $57,300 against nine white people, including two of Houston's brutal police, charging false imprisonment, beating, kicking, starving and threatening.

Now Negroes have been falsely imprisoned all over this country for so long that it has almost become a national institution or pastime.

A tremendous tribute is exacted in fines and sentences each week from Negroes who are either falsely arrested and imprisoned, or who have received fines and sentences out of all proportion to the crimes they have committed.

Any Negro, no matter how wealthy and educated he may be, can be falsely arrested anywhere in America on any white man's or woman's word, and consider himself lucky if he is not "made an example of."

Much of this loose arresting and jailing of Negroes could be stopped North and South if Negroes had sufficient gumption to sue police officers when their action was an obvious imposition and persecution.

The police can be and ought to be sued under such circumstances.

A few such suits would go far toward changing police tactics toward Negroes, whether or not the suits were won.

This would seem to be a fruitful field for the N.A.A.C.P. or the Elks' civil liberties committee.

People will continue to believe that we are not concerned about our liberties unless we make an effort to defend and preserve them.

Eyes Discolored, Lips Cut, Face Puffed
Woman Names Motor Bandit Patrolman As Her Assailant

Accusing a member of the motor bandit patrol of severely beating her during a fracas at 40th and Chestnut Sts last Thursday night, Miss Virginia Slaughter, 40, of 4030 Ludlow street, was "side-tracked" in her attempts to press charges at the 55th and Pine streets police station Friday morning.

Eyes discolored, lip cut, and face puffed, Miss Slaughter nearly collapsed when she told Magistrate McBride of the policeman's alleged assault. She pointed to the officer, whose name police refused to disclose, and said he struck her countless times and then arrested her on a disorderly conduct charge.

The policeman denied striking his alleged victim, declaring: "She must have been drunk." He arrested Miss Slaughter, the officer said, because she tried to make her dog bite a white man. The latter failed to appear at the hearing.

Miss Carrie Harris, 18, who was with the beaten woman when the incident occurred, swore that the officer struck Miss Slaughter. "He split her lip and nearly knocked her teeth out," she said.

Ignoring the assault charge, the Magistrate discharged Miss Slaughter.

Anderson, S. C., Mail
August 24, 1938

HOW STRANGE!

Constant northern propaganda is to the effect that the South is a place where the negro lives hard and where the hand of the law is against him.

On the other hand Washington, D. C., has been regarded by both North and South as sort of a negro heaven where there were no racial bars at all and negro policemen preserved order for both races.

But in the past few years Washington policemen have shot to death more than 50 negroes.

Sounds like trouble in paradise.

Wants Money For Torture And Threats

DALLAS, Texas,—A suit for $557,300 was filed here this week by twenty-four-year-old Mickey Ricketts, against Dr. and Mrs. F. H. Newton, both white, and seven others including two policemen, charging false imprisonment threatening.

The suit grew out of Rickett's being located by policemen in the attic of Dr. and Mrs. Newton's home in Highland Park here July 30th. According to police, Ricketts had been imprisoned in the attic of the Newton home for five days, bound and gagged, because they suspected him of stealing jewelry from Mrs. Newton.

The Newtons, along with two servants, have been indicted by a grand jury on charges of false imprisonment, in connection with the kidnaping of Ricketts.

TWO POLICEMEN LOSE POSITIONS IN KILLING MAN

Commission Finds White Officers Guilty of Death Beating

CHICAGO, Sept. 14 (ANP).—Charged with beating to death John Robinson, 33, following an arrest for drunkenness, two white policemen of the Maxwell street station, Fred H. Herman and John G. Bowen, were dismissed permanently from the force Saturday by the civil service commission of which Atty. Wendell E. Green is a member.

It was announced that indictments for manslaughter will be sought against the pair by the West Side Citizens organization which has fought the case since the death of Robinson, April 2.

Two other officers, Bernard White and Edward Brown, were reinstated following a suspension during investigation of the case.

Citizens in the section of Chicago where the killing occurred hailed the ousting of the officers as a great victory.

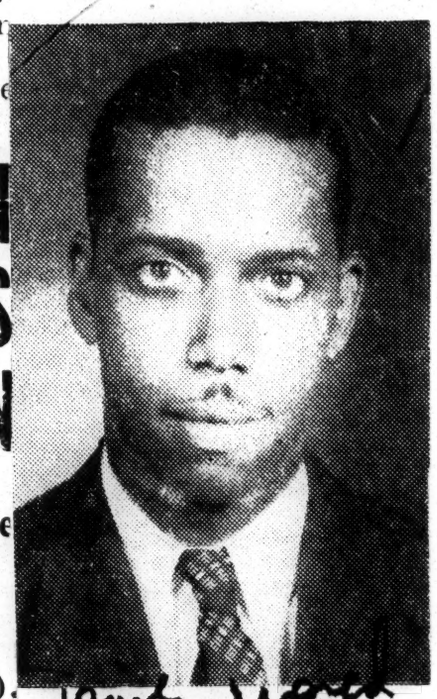
Herman, a policeman since 1923 and Bowen, on the force since 1922 were noted for their brutality.

Robinson, according to witnesses was beaten by arresting officers a he lay on the floor.

When they carried him uncon scious down a flight of stairs t the patrol wagon, his head bange against every step.

He died next day in the hospital, and an autopsy showed his stomach and liver had been punctured by kicks and blows and his skull fractured.

Got Officer Fined



MARTIN MARTIN

Vigorous prosecution by Attorney Martin S. Martin of Danville, Va., resulted last week in the fining of a white police officer, who was charged with having kicked and slapped two colored youths. The conviction followed a day-long hearing.

2 COPS FIRED IN WEST SIDE NEGRO'S DEATH

Slaying 'Savagery' Board Says

When the Civil Service Commission found them guilty of "reckless savagery and brutality that astounds the decency of the public". Fred N. Herman and

John G. Bowen, white, were ordered permanently discharged from the police force Friday.

Herman and Bowen are two of four Maxwell street policemen whose brutal beating of John Robinson, Westside Negro, resulted in his death, aroused an indignant citizenry to mass action and resulted in the commission's brutality probe.

Other Officers Return to Posts

Two other officers, Edward Brown and Bernard White, suspended with Herman and Bowen pending the action of the commission, were ordered to return to their posts for "lack of sufficient evidence." Murder charges will be filed against the ousted officers next week by the Westside Citizens' Organization, according to Branch Ray, president, who hailed their discharge as "one of the greatest victories for civil rights ever won in Chicago."

Indignant civic organizations, among which were the International Labor Defense and the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee, joined the westside organization in exposing the brutality of the policemen, which it was charged directly caused Robinson's death at Bridewell hospital April 6.

The 33-year-old victim died at Bridewell hospital on April 6, after he had been brutally beaten in the apartment of Mrs. Viola Mays, 1232 Washburne avenue following his arrest by police on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest."

40 Testify Before Commission

His stomach and liver were punctured by kicks and blows, and his skull injured by a clubbing at the hands of Officer Herman, it was revealed. Forty witnesses appeared before the commission and gave detailed accounts of the beating by the police officers and told of the inhuman and brutal treatment of Robinson as he lay in a semi-conscious condition on the floor in Mrs. Mays' kitchen where the police attack took place.

Mrs. Mays, who was chief witness against the officers at the different civil service commission hearings, has already signed a complaint against them and is expected to be the prosecution's star witness if they are brought to trial. She said in commenting on the commission's findings:

"They have fired the men who killed Robinson, a good friend of our family. At least he has not died in vain. Other Negroes in the future will owe their lives to the fight we have put up in this case."

The Westside station enjoyed a notorious reputation for brutality to Negro prisoners, it was revealed, and the dismissal of the officers met with expressions of delight on every hand. The case was first brought to the public's attention through the columns of the Midwest Daily Record, a westside newspaper. The Bee joined in the fight against the officers, giving wide publicity to the case.

"BRAVE" FLORIDA COP PULLS
TRIGGER ON BOY WHO RAN
FROM HIM.

Miami,Fla., Nov. 10-(special) Charles Johnson,13 year old boy, was shot and seriously wounded as he fled Monday afternoon from an unoccupied house on the Ingraham Highway with a young companion by City Patrolman A.E. Akins who claimed he fired at the youngsters, neither of whom was armed, because they did not obey his order to halt.

Patrolman Akin had answered a call made by informants residing in the neighborhood who reported they had seen the two boys enter the vacant house which contained nothing of value. Frank Bullard, 14 arrested iwht the Johnson boy, after the latter had been shot, expalined a suit case containing a change of clothing and a blanket found on the porch of the house, by stating he and his friend were planning to run away from home.

The Police Department's informant whose report led to the shooting, later admitted they had seen the two boys go into the house several times previously, but gave no explanation, it is understood, why they had not called the Department's attention to it sooner. Examination of the premises showed no damage had been done nor had anything been removed from the house by the two prospective "Runaways" who were using the place as a convenient "Hideout" until they had completed arrangements for leaving.

Courier
11-12-38
Pittsburgh,Pa.

Crime – 1938

Police Brutality.

New Orleans' Police Brutality Attracts Nation-wide Attention

NEW ORLEANS—(By Leon Lewis for ANP)—The National Maritime Union, a labor organization, and the National Negro congress saw fit to comment on the frequency of police brutality as practiced in New Orleans. National officials of the Seamens' union were outspoken in their condemnation of police brutality in the recent labor struggle, the Aaron Boyd jail death and the case of Washington, an Astoria cafe chef who was kept in jail for 33 days as a suspect during which time his rib was broken by New Orleans police.

Wondering why the local branch NAACP and other such organizations had not taken action against such practices, these laborites expressed a necessity for massed action against police outlawry. A New York official of the union stated that he had been in conversation with the national officers of the NAACP and had questioned their laxity in the matter. He said they explained that their moves would be determined by action of the local branch.

He further stated that if a continuance of this type of treatment to citizens is allowed, "All citizens will be at the mercy of a barbarous band of blood-thirsty police." A move is on foot to carry the situation before a committee which will culminate in a concentrated fight against local police brutality.

Indirect statements from John R. Davis of the National Negro congress were being considered in New Orleans this week. Mr. Davis is reported to be interested in establishing a branch of his organization in New Orleans. A necessity for this move, it is said, was prompted by "general injustices to which Negroes of New Orleans are subjected and a need for the type of leadership and organization that will go to the bat in serious interest of the race."

With verified evidence and witnesses on hand that disproves any claim or cover-up of police, white organizations, labor unions, and the congress plan a concentrated attack on New Orleans police brutality. These same findings through investigation were presented to the local civic organizations of the race but no steps were taken to fight the brutal practices of police against arrested citizens.

Wide publicity has been given all these cases of police brutality, explaining in detail, the facts in each case, and while this has not prompted local Negro organizations to action, it has aroused influential white organizations of local and national prominence; it has drawn comment and a desire for action from the congress; it has attracted the attention of labor who also has been subject to the same type of brutality.

The Rt. Rev. Mr. Reynolds, a Catholic priest, in an address before the local NAACP, denounced these racial injustices and declared that "the Negro leaders must coordinate their efforts in attack upon these social injustices." A local Protestant ministerial alliance termed New Orleans police brutality as "detrimental to democracy and the principles of justice." They further said, "It is a pity that Negro leadership in New Orleans took no course of effective action."

Capital Widow Wins Pension For Murder Of Husband By Cop

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(CNA)—District of Columbia Commissioner Hazan this week granted four of five demands presented by a committee of 25 protesting the police murder of Wallace McKnight two weeks ago.

The committee, elected by 3,000 marchers demanding an end to police killings of Negroes in Washington, met with Commissioner Hazan last Tuesday. They were led by Mrs. McKnight, and Martin Chancey, secretary of the Communist Party of Washington.

The demands granted provide:

1. Setting up of a citizens' committee to hold public hearings and to investigate unpunished killings of Negro citizens by Washington police. The committee will be composed of representatives of the National Negro Congress, civic, religious and labor groups and the Communist Party.

2. The District government will grant Mrs. McKnight a widow's pension and will make a settlement with her.

3. The policemen accused of killing citizens will be suspended pending trial.

4. Illegal arrest and terrorizing of Negro citizens is to be halted.

The fifth demand, for removal of Police Chief Major Brown, who was accused by the committee as responsible for the wave of terror, was not granted.

Martin Chancey announced for the Communist Party that the campaign for removal of Major Brown will be continued until he is dropped from the city police force.

1,000 Meet In Protest

DAYTON—More than a thousand persons met here in a mass meeting last Monday night to protest the killing of Jack Francis local Numbers man, by G. F. Baumgardner, a policeman.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called the meeting, but a number of other organizations participated in it.

The killing of Francis was particularly denounced since the man had been known to be orderly, and had used his earnings from the 'Numbers' to send South for several of his relatives, who now face destitution.

The meeting called for the immediate discharge of Baumgardner and a criminal prosecution of him. It was said by old citizens to be the largest mass meeting ever called in Dayton.

"Jack Francis was a bootlegger", one of the speakers on the program said, 'but he was a man and he had a right to live". The speakers unanimously called for a cleanup of the city police and an end to the unjustified killing and mistreatment of persons under arrest.

POLICE CHIEF QUITS AS CITIZENS PROTEST BRUTALITY OF POLICE

HOUSTON, Aug. 4.—Chief of Police C. A. Williams resigned his position here Saturday and was succeeded by Dave Turner, former Assistant Chief and veteran peace officer.. His resignation closely follows the mass protest meeting against police brutality by the Houston N.A.A.C.P. and the stirring speech made by Attorney W. Jay Johnson in which he charged irregularities in the department.

SUITS PILE UP AGAINST POLICE IN DAYTON

By BARBEE W. DURHAM

DAYTON, O.—(ANP)—Three different suits have been filed against local police by Negro citizens for brutality. At the same time colored Daytonians, aroused by the bragging insults of Jake Powell, New York Yankee outfielder, in a radio broadcast at Chicago are seeking a hearing with Chief R. F. Wrustner on not hiring Powell again this winter. The ball player has been a policeman here when not playing with the Yankees.

Interracial friction resulting in the bombing of the home and business establishment of C. J. McLin, prominent mortician, has caused the stationing of four private guards at the home. It is believed the bombing was an attempt to at least intimidate McLin, adviser to the Dayton Youth Movement, an organization picketing white stores in Negro neighborhoods that do not hire colored clerks.

One of the three lawsuits has been filed by the N.A.A.C.P. against Patrolman G. F. Bumgartner for the killing of Jack Francis, a numbers baron. Recently a mass meeting was held in a local church to protest the slaying and was attended by more than 1,000 persons. The amount sought in the suit is $10,000.

Claude Wilkinson has also filed charges against another officer for manhandling his son, one of the pickets in the Dayton Youth Movement. A third suit pending is that of Charles Evans, arrested on suspicion because he handed a clerk a $100 bill while making a purchase in a downtown store. After remaining in jail over night, he was released. Evans is suing for false arrest and humiliation.

Charging violation of the state civil rights law, Clarence Smith, prominent young business man, had a warrant issued for the arrest of the white proprietor of a sandwich shop when he was refused service.

Mayor Had No Time To Listen To Report On Clubbing Of Negroes

W. Jay Johnson, Militant Houston Lawyer, Presents Report of Police Brutality To Council, But Fonville Isn't Interested.

HOUSTON, Aug. 4—While W. Jay Johnson, militant Houston Lawyer, was carrying before this city's Council the grim facts concerning the wave of police atrocities sweeping the city, mayor R. H. Fonville was busy at the task of mapping plans to fete Howard Hughes, local capitalist aviator, who recently conducted a successful "around the world" flight and had no time to spend listening to the council's report on the clubbing of Negroes.

Attorney Johnson called no shots in presenting the facts. He pointed out the recent act of a cowardly police who threw a defenseless race girl off of a bus, saying that she had broken the jim-crow law in occupying a seat before the division sign. He also reported the shooting of a defenseless colored woman, when the husband was accosted for speeding. "Death is not the penalty for speeding," said the noted barrister.

Mr. Johnson's report created a furore in the council confab and other members revealed irregularities in the police department that were reported to them, but ignored by the Mayor and Chief of Police. The Council threatened to take the police from under Fonville's hands.

Asks $15,000 For Beating By Police

New charges against Fred H. Paschal and Patrick L. Whalen, former Seattle policemen recently sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary for manslaughter were made yesterday by John Follings in a $15,000 superior court damage suit.

Paschal and Whalen, with former Policeman W. F. Stevenson, are at liberty on bond in the manslaughter case pending supreme court hearing of their appeal. They were convicted of killing Berry Lawson, Negro, during an arrest.

Follings, 51-year-old Negro dining car porter, obtained an order from Superior Judge Chester A. Batchelor, permitting filing the suit against Paschal, Whalen, Chief of Police William B. Sears and Sears' bonding company, the National Surety Corporation.

The complaint alleged that Follings was arrested in October, 1937 "without any public offense having been committed," and that the officers forced their way into the apartment where the arrest was made "without any order, warrant or process of any court."

Paschal and Whalen were accused of using "insulting, profane and defamatory language," and it was further alleged that "Officer Paschal assaulted and beat the plaintiff and struck the plaintiff with his fist on the plaintiff's chest and lower part of his body and all over his face, and with a sap or blackjack struck the plaintiff on the left side of the head, causing a deep cut of approximately two or three inches in length resulting in a brain concussion."

Follings was charged with disorderly conduct and acquitted in a trial before Police Judge William R. Bell last December.

JOHN FOLLINGS
After the Beating

Cops Force Way in House

Jab Woman with Night Stick

WASHINGTON. Alleging that three police officers attached to No. 2 Precinct forced their way into her residence at 5 a.m., Wednesday, of last week, and searched the premises without a warrant, Miss Dorothy Brice, 1340 Corcoran Street, Northwest, told the AFRO-AMERICAN that she plans to launch a general protest against the methods of the local police department.

According to Miss Brice, who lives in the seven-room house with her mother, Mrs. Susie Brice, and several roomers, she was awakened by the constant ringing of the doorbell which she answered from her quarters on the third floor.

"Be Quick About It"

Three uniformed policemen on the doorstep told her roughly, she says, to open the door and "be darn quick about it."

Miss Julia McKay, owner of the house, residing on the first floor, was also awakened and opened the door before Miss Brice could dress and go downstairs.

The police quickly stepped inside, Miss McKay alleges brushed her aside, stating they looking for a "Mr. Manassas.' They displayed no search warrant, but proceeded upstairs passing Miss Brice who was on the way down.

Ignore Protests

Ignoring Miss Brice's heated protests they allegedly entered each room on the third floor, arousing the sleeping occupants with searchlights, peering beneath beds and in closets.

Punched with Billet

Miss Ruth Clark, a domestic worker, was aroused when the

MISS DOROTHY BRICE,

police, she asserts, flashed a searchlight in her face, inquiring in terse, undignified tone what her name was.

She was terrified at the presence of the three in her room as she lay in her bed scantily clad because of the heat, and was unable to speak. She inquired why did they want to know her name.

Miss Clark says that one of the policemen then jabbed her in the stomach with his billet and allegedly said:

"That's always the trouble with you damn dumb n—s."

Fainted on Bed

At this Miss Clark fainted and the police finally left her quarters.

On the way back to the first floor the police further subjected Miss Brice to a stiff questioning which was conducted in a crude manner, she alleges.

She answered by protesting that they had no search warrant to enter the house and therefore they had no right to ask questions.

After this the police left the house, telling her that "it's a good thing Mr. Manassas wasn't in the house."

All of the occupants of the household said that they never knew or never heard of a "Mr. Manassas."

"What colored residents in Washington really need is protection against so-called police protection." Miss Brice said.

Crime - 1938

Police Brutality.

2 Chicago Policemen Fired For Fatal Attack

Police Methods

By DAVID H. ORRO

The blue-coated "Four Horsemen" of the Strong-arm Maxwell street police station, caught in the cross-fire of a brutality probe, emerged from the ordeal this week with only half their number remaining after the Chicago Civil Service Commission, on Friday, ordered two of them fired from the police force.

John Robinson

Having been lopped off the payroll since the latter part of April thru temporary suspensions pending outcome of the investigation, Officers Fred N. Herman and John G. Bowen, white, came to the end of their wanton gallop upon the rights of Chicago citizens when they fatally beat John Robinson on the morning of April 2.

Today they are again pounding city streets, but this time without uniforms, without pay. And a Sword of Damocles still dangles over their heads in form of murder charges which will be filed against them next week by the West Side Citizens Organization, according to Branch Ray, president.

"Reckless Savagery"

Robinson, 34, died in Bridewell hospital on April 6 of a ruptured stomach and liver sustained in the officers' attack on him; an attack described by the Commission in issuing its findings, as "reckless savagery and brutality that astounds the decency of the public."

Two other white officers, Edward Brown and Bernard White, tried along with Herman and Bowen on the same charge, barely escaped the Commission's axe through lack of sufficient evidence.

The Robinson case broke into headlines on April 22 when a committee of enraged citizens, assisted and guided by representatives from the International Labor Defense, the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee and the National Negro Congress, laid before Police Commissioner James P. Allman a petition for the discharge of the four policemen following Robinson's death.

Cited to Commission

The petition cited that Robinson was fatally kicked and beaten by a squad of police from Maxwell street station when they invaded the home of Mrs. Viola Mays at 1232 Washburne avenue, to arrest Robinson on a minor charge.

Following a probe by investigators from Allman's office the facts disclosed were placed in hands of the Civil Service Commission. On June 1 after a two-day hearing during which the defendants were check-mated and befuddled by a relentless prosecution, the Commission, comprising its president, Joseph P. Geary; its secretary, James S. Osborne, and Commissioner Wendell E. Green, only Race member of the body, took the charges under advisement.

As only seven witnesses testified at this first hearing, the Commission a week later launched an investigation of its own which was placed in charge of Sgt. Harry B. Deas, a Race officer from Third district police station.

After Sergeant Deas had submitted his findings the Commission again convened on August 12 and heard testimony from 25 additional witnesses, the bulk of which served to substantiate previous testimony.

Despite adverse pressure from influential angles the Chicago Civil Service Commission on Friday dealt police cossack methods in Chicago a paralyzing blow with its discharge of Herman and Brown.

Napoleon Gillette, chairman of the West Side Citizens Organization, along with Ray, its president, was the driving force which kept the issue at a white heat and fought through to a decisive victory for civil rights.

The daily press which has previously carefully avoided conspicuous mention of the case, at last came out with a story on the Commission's disposition Monday morning, and west side citizens, thus apprised of the signal triumph waxed jubilant.

A mass demonstration in honor of the victory will be staged by the citizens group on September 16 at 1221 Blue Island avenue.

Mrs. Mays, star witness for the prosecution, in commenting on the outcome said in reference to Robinson, the victim: "At least he has not died in vain. Other Negroes in the future will owe their safety from police brutality to the fight we have just won!"

PUBLIC spirited citizens of Washington, D. C., supported by various civic clubs and other organizations, have launched determined efforts to bring to an end various forms of "police brutality" which has reached an alarming stage in the nation's Capital.

The series of charges placed at the door of the police department range from minor physical injuries to unprovoked murders of colored citizens living in the shadow of the Capitol of the United States.

One of the main steps in doctoring the situation has been made in demanding the resignation or replacement of the Superintendent of Police, while another is to cause the suspension, and if possible, the conviction of the guilty officers, who so wantonly take human lives and wreak vengeance on innocent men and women.

The problem faced by the Washington group is one that almost prevails throughout the country. Members of the race get the least respect from so-called guardians of the peace, and are always first in feeling the sting of their authority invested by a law which sometime upholds them when on the wrong side.

Washington citizens are going about their business trying to clean up a bad situation in a sane way. If their efforts prove successful it may be the beginning of the end for "police brutality."

Danville Officer Convicted For Assaulting Citizens

Conviction Makes History in Danville Police Court

Special to Journal and Guide

DANVILLE, Va. — Prosecuted by a youthful attorney, who was retained by the plaintiffs, a Danville policeman was convicted on two charges of assault and fined $2.50 on each count following a hearing in Police Court here last week.

Conviction of Officer W. D. Stamey on Thursday for allegedly assaulting George Wilson and Charles Hairston marked the first time in the history of Danville that a white police officer has been found guilty of assaulting a colored person.

Martin A. Martin, recent graduate of the Howard University law school, and brother of M. C. Martin, cashier of the Danville Savings Bank and Trust Company was the attorney who succeeded in having Officer Stamey convicted on both counts.

The courtroom was filled to capacity with persons of both races including a number of police officers who testified as character witnesses for the accused officer.

The Commonwealth's attorney stood aside and asked Mr. Martin to prosecute.

The charges against Officer Stamey were the outcome of a police court hearing week before last in which John T. Hairston, a brother of one of the complaining witnesses, was charged with assaulting the officer, interfering with an officer in the performance of his duty, and carrying a concealed deadly weapon.

At that time Mr. Martin defended Hairston and was successful in getting all of the charges dismissed except the concealed weapon charge for which the defendant was fined $20 and costs.

Mr. Martin was the only Negro applicant to pass the Virginia Bar examination in July. A total of 201 applicants took the test and of this number six were colored. He finished high school here several years ago before entering Ohio State University and later Howard University.

All-White Jury Frees Cop of Manslaughter

Wallace McKnight Was Fatally Shot by J. Sobolewski

WASHINGTON

After deliberating nearly two hours, an all-white jury in District court, Tuesday, exonerated Policeman John E. Sobolewski, white, No. 3 precinct, of manslaughter charges in connection with the fatal shooitng of Wallace McKnight who was slain last June 26 near Thomas Circle.

McKnight, 33, was fatally wounded by Sobolewski when he ducked and ran from the officer who sought to question him about a package he carried under his arm.

McKnight was employed as night cook in a restaurant at 1703 K Street, Northwest, and was en route to his home, 1300 block of R Street, Northwest, at 3 a.m. when the officer accosted him.

Spied Heavy Package

The officer testified that he observed McKnight walking with a heavy package under his arm and asked him what he was carrying. McKnight, Sobolewski said, replied that he was carrying his work clothes, but when he requested him to tell him where he worked the man allegedly dropped the package and ran.

When McKnight outran the officer the latter fired, the bullet fatally injuring the night cook. McKnight was able, however, to run for another block where he was subsequently picked up by the policeman and taken to the hospital where he died.

Foodstuff in Package

Investigation showed the package contained $4 worth of foodstuff, McKnight is said to have taken from his place of employment.

Prosecution attorneys argued that Sobolewski had no right to shoot unless he was reasonably certain the man had committed a felony, and McKnight, at best, was only guilty of a misdemeanor.

McKnight is survived by a widow and one child. His widow is seeking to have the District pay compensation for her husband's death.

Woman Files $1,000 Suit Against Officer In Arrest

GARY, Sept. 23—Mrs. Camille Roberts, through her attorney, Warren O. Harvey, filed suit against Henry O'Neal for $1,000 for his unlawfully arrest of her on August 18.

Mrs. Roberts said that on August 18, Henry O'Neal unlawfully, maliciously and without a warrant and without any reasonable or probable cause arrested and imprisoned her in a poorly ventilated cell. During the time of the arrest Mrs. Roberts said that O'Neal told her that her Buick automobile she was driving was too nice for her to have in her possession unless she either stole it or was engaged in the illegal business of gambling, commonly known as a "Policy game."

However, she, the plaintiff, presented her certificate of ownership of the automobile and her drivers license.

Mrs. Roberts states that because of her unlawful arrest she had to spend fourteen hours in the city jail and in doing so she became sick, lame and disordered and sustained injuries to all of her nerves, muscles and particularly her head, neck, back and shoulders, from sitting and lying on the hard boards in the jail.

Aside from that, she said that she had to pay out $100 in securing the services of an attorney-at-law and $50 for medical treatments.

Because of this and the great mental anguish, humiliation, shame and disgrace and much physical suffering, the planitiff is asking the court to grant her the sum of $1000

SAY DIXIE COP MURDERED BOY

Accuse Birmingham, Ala., Officer of Firing Fatal Shots

BIRMINGHAM, Sept. 28 (ANP) — Relatives and friends of Earl Long, star third baseman of Stockman YMCA ball team, this week were reported as demanding an investigation of circumstances surrounding his death.

Long, 21, and the sole support of his mother and sister, died Saturday after a brutal policeman allegedly had fired two bullets into his body as he lay asleep in an intoxicated condition in an auto with fellow teammates on Huntsville road.

According to reports, the auto which John Smith was driving, ran out of gasoline at the point where the shooting took place.

Long and Teammate Golden Jones were asleep in the rear seat, and Smith, with a companion, left to get some "gas" at a nearby filling station.

Smith says that as they returned to the stalled auto, a policeman stopped them and asked, "Are you boys going to that car. One of the boys there is dead."

Civic Groups Score Brutal Police Tactics

United action of three civic organizations to stop police brutality against Negroes was undertaken at a mass meeting this week at 1032 Orleans street. The meeting was called by the North Side Citizens Committee following the beating of a crippled man by a white Chicago avenue station policeman.

Officers of the West Side Citizens Organizations, the North Side Citizens Committee, and the South Side Citizens Committee met after the mass meeting and worked out plans to press for manslaughter indictments against the two white Maxwell street officers recently discharged from the force for the slaying of John Robinson, 33-year-old West Side citizen, last April.

Assistant State's Attorney Wilbur Crowley promised an "investigation" two weeks ago but refused warrants at the time for the arrest of John Bowen and Fred Herman, the two discharged officers.

A delegation will also press for action in the case of the beating of Alvin Watkins, a 29-year-old cripple, by Officer Patrick O'Shea.

Speaking at the mass meeting, William L. Patterson, associate editor of the Daily Record and a member of the features staff of the Crusader News Agency, pointed out the importance locally and nationally, of a successful fight for Negro rights in Chicago. He emphasized that the Robinson case must be followed up by city-wide action to stop terrorism.

Four ministers, Rev. V. J. H. Barron, Rev. J. D. Campbell, Rev. Thomas Carter, and Rev. Leroy W. Green, appealed for the unity of all progressives, white and Negro, to stop a growing wave of police brutality towards colored citizens during the past six months.

Policeman Shoots 13-Year Old Boy

MIAMI, Fla.—(SNS)—

A 13-year-old boy was shot through the right leg Monday by Policeman A. E. Aikens, who said the boy and a companion failed to heed repeated commands to halt after running from a house on Coconut Grove at his approach.

Patrolman Aikens was summoned to the house in the 1100 block of Ingraham highway by a neighbor who said she saw the two boys enter the unoccupied residence. The wounded boy, Charles Johnson, of 3701 Oak Avenue, was reported in "fair" condition at Jackson Memorial hospital.

Arrested with Johnson was Frank Bullard, 14, of 3350 Brooker Court, and police quoted them as saying they were running away from home. A suitcase and blanket had been left by them, police said, on the porch of the Ingraham highway house.

The neighbor said she saw the boys knock on the front door of the unoccupied house and then go to the back door when they received no answer. Police quoted them as saying they visited the house twice in the past.

The boys fled empty-handed when interrupted by Aikens.

Crime - 1938

South Carolina

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
October 4, 1938

Ignorance And Crime Linked In S.C. Survey

Special to The Observer.

YORK, S. C., Oct. 3. — The average schooling received by the 52 convicts on the York county chain gang — 41 negroes and 11 whites— is, expressed in grades completed, 4.4 grades, according to an educational survey of the chain gang made by Mrs. Ethel K. Jenkins, York county school attendance teacher.

The facts brought out by the survey tend to bear out the theory, Mrs. Jenkins said today, that there is a very real connection between crime and ignorance — that the two often go hand in hand.

Of the 52 convicts queried about their education, she said they had received no schooling at all. One had completed the first grade, four the second grade and 12 the third grade. The number that had completed each of the other elementary grades was as follows: fourth grade, 6; fifth grade, 7; sixth grade, 5; seventh grade, 2. Only nine had attended high school. Four of these completed the eighth grade, two the ninth grade and three the 10th grade. 10

Greenwood [illegible] Journal
November [illegible]

Go to Philadelphia for Negroes

Solicitor Hugh Beasley, Deputy Sheriff Len Lyon and Robert Higgins are in Philadelphia to appear in court proceedings for the return of two negroes named Freeland who were convicted in their absence of cotton stealing in circuit court here about two years ago. Not until recently was their correct address learned and the two officers and Mr. Higgins, who went along to identify the pair, left for Philadelphia for the hearing scheduled to be held on Monday. It is understood that the negroes will fight extradition. A negro preacher of that city wrote the solicitor asking for a compromise settlement and said "the two young men were among his best members." A sealed sentence awaits them on their return.

Hampton S. C. Guardian
November 2, 1938

Fingerprints Main Factor in Recapture

Sheriff Alton M. Lightsey of Hampton county, one of the few fingerprint experts in this section, clinched the case in which three negroes, fugitives from an Allendale county chain gang, were brought back to Allendale and accused of the theft of an auto of Mrs. Ida Fennell of Fairfax, of the professional instruments of Dr. Jack Wertz of Estill, and the larceny of nine suits of clothes, nine pairs of shoes, several bundles of other articles and more than $7.00 in cash from a Fairfax store.

Sheriff Lightsey was called in to get the fingerprints on the thefts, and found those on the cash register in the store and those on the auto of Dr. Wertz to be the prints of the three negroes wanted. Later the Hampton county officer made a trip to Savannah with Police Officer H A. Slack and Chain Gang Captain D. C. Smith where they took charge of the three miscreants.

All three men were returned to the Allendale county jail where they will serve out their several terms, with charges of larceny awaiting them when the present terms are completed.

Also assisting in tracking down the negroes was Deputy Sheriff Gilmore Harley of Barnwell. The negroes escaped Thursday morning, October 27 and were recaptured in Savannah on Saturday, October 22. Three suits of clothes, one pair of shoes, the instruments of Dr. Wertz and Mrs. Fennell's auto were recovered by the officers. The instruments had been thrown out below Estill and the machine was abandoned below Savannah.

Crime - 1938

Tennessee

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times

A REVEALING INCIDENT

The officials of practically al penal institutions have occasionally to deal with protests, usually anonymous, against the treatment of prisoners in their care. An example of how properly to dispose of such matters has just been provided by the Hamilton County officials who administer the White Oak workhouse for Negro prisoners. Several days ago, the Chattanooga branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People received from the national headquarters a copy of an anonymous letter presumably written by a prisoner in the White Oak camp. The letter asserted that prisoners are treated brutally, that mattresses at the camp are dirty, and that prisoners with venereal diseases are not segregated but are permitted to handle food served other prisoners.

Tennessee branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People were asked to submit the matter to Governor Browning. A committee of Chattanooga Negroes called on Hamilton County officials and its members promptly received from County Engineer E. G. Murrell a pass which entitled them to inspect the workhouse at their convenience and to interview the prisoners. County officials had been apprised of the anonymous protest. They did not believe the charges to be true in any particular, but they did not withhold any information.

A committee of Negroes including W. H. Elmore, Earl Welch, and Dr. E. L. Scott has visited the White Oak workhouse and reported that conditions there are unusually good. As spokesman for the committee, Elmore asserts that in every particular the reported charges against the management of the workhouse have been disproved, not only as a result of their physical inspection but by the statements of prisoners with whom the committee members talked.

To the national headquarters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will go a report from the committee of Negro leaders stating that the protests are unfounded. It is, of course, extremely gratifying that such a report can be made. Not less gratifying is the spirit in which the representatives of the Negroes made their investigation. Especially notable is the promptness with which Mr. Murrell and his associates acceded to a request for permission to visit the workhouse, and the courtesy which was shown the investigating committee. The entire incident, unimportant in itself, is a fine example of the worth of cooperation between spokesmen and representatives of the white and Negro races.

Knoxville, Tenn. Journal

Negroes Will Parade Monday In Downtown

A parade commemorating Emancipation Day, with many Negro businessmen participating, will take place in the downtown section Monday at 1 p. m.

Cars and trucks, gaily decorated, are scheduled to appear in the procession and many of the Negro clubs will be represented.

The parade will assemble at noon at Austin High school and will move west on Vine avenue to Gay street, then north to Fifth avenue. From there the parade will move to University avenue and finally to Leslie street park.

Curtis Hyatte and Otis W. Sims are in charge of arrangements.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
August 22, 1938

Stop Them All

To the Editor of THE BANNER:

I read in THE BANNER that the Nashvill police force had caught several Negro "numbers" racketeers, or gamblers. I think tha they did their whole duty. I am against al forms of gambling.

I sometimes wonder why our state or na tion will make laws and enforce them agains the small gambler, but at the same time le the rich man gamble away thousands upo thousands of dollars. They are protected be cause they are gambling with Wall Street i New York. Not one word is raised against i in the courts or the public press.

I read of one man who lost $1,000,000 in gambling while he was going from Chicago to New York. Was he arrested? Too often the big fish go free.

J. J. KING.

Nunnelly, Tenn.

Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal

Series Of Cases Keeps Courts Busy

CHARGES HEARD INCLUDE THREATS TO KILL, FELONIOUS ASSAULT AND WIFE ABANDONMENT

A medley of cases, including among others, charges of wife abandonment, reckless driving, threats to kill, and felonious assault, occupied the attention of local courts and law enforcement officers during the past week.

The wife abandonment charge was lodged against Horace Dickson of Hickory Corner by his wife, Mrs. Hazel Dickson, who alleged in a complaint before Squire C. L. Parrish Monday that her husband left her without cause.

When arraigned, Dickson at first pleaded guilty, and was ordered to pay $12.50 a month for a year toward his wife's support. Unable to raise the $150 bond required, however, he was remanded to jail, and the following day withdrew his plea to change it to one of not guilty, on the representation that he had not fully understood the previous day's proceedings.

Squire Parrish then ordered him bound over for the October Grand Jury and Dickson was released on arranging a $250 appearance bond.

Charged with threatening the life of Robert Latham, well known Fifth District farmer, after the latter had ordered him off the Latham place because his loitering there was interfering with the work of the help, Jim Smith, negro youth, was sentenced by Squire Parrish Saturday to the Industrial School for Negroes at Pikeville. On Smith's promise to leave the county and not come back, however, he was paroled to his grandfather in Henderson County.

John Warren, Humboldt negro, escaped prosecution on charges of felonious assault upon Herschel Holt, Henderson negro slashed across the throat by Warren during an altercation at the Emancipation Day celebration here August 8 when Holt withdrew the charges Monday after an agreement out of court. By it, the Humboldt negro paid the cost of the criminal action, and Holt agreed to file no civil suit later in connection with the case.

Charged with reckless driving after, it is alleged, he had passed a Madison County school bus on the right hand side while children were unloading from it, Monroe Dickey, Henderson negro, was taken into custody by local authorities Monday and turned over to Madison County officers for action on the case.

Knoxville, Tenn. Journal
November 3, 1938

State May Act To Sift Crime In Nashville

NASHVILLE, Nov. 2 (AP)—Possibility of Governor Browning's Crime Commission's opening an investigation in Nashville with a convicted "numbers" gambling operator as its chief witness loomed tonight.

Rep. Richard M. Atkinson said he had discussed with the governor the possibility of a pardon or delay in execution of a workhouse sentence in order that certain investigations could be made.

William James, meanwhile, was ordered to the workhouse to serve a four-month sentence. He was accused of heading a "numbers" ring operating in Nashville, and also has been credited with wielding powerful political influence among Negro voters.

Atkinson, who said he acted as a citizen and not as an attorney for James, said he had discussed the case with the governor and given him the names of persons "reported to have taken money from James."

"I told the governor," he said "that I didn't think the Negro should have to take the rap when others have been bleeding him. I have information in my possession that certain local politicians have taken money from James on various occasions."

Criminal Judge Charles Gilbert who ordered the Negro to the workhouse, said Atkinson had requested a delay in execution of the sentence and suggested Browning desired the action. Gilbert, saying, "I am following the law," declined to act.

Browning, reached in West Tennessee, declined to confirm or deny reports that he would intervene in the case, or that James would be asked to testify before the Crime Commission.

James told reporters, "I am ready to serve my sentence," and added he had heard nothing of an investigation.

Atkinson was defeated in his race for renomination.

Chattanooga Tenn. Daily Times
November 22, 1938

SOCIAL WORKERS STUDY NEGRO HOMICIDES HERE

The Chattanooga Council of Social Workers Among Negroes will meet tonight at 7:30 at the Phyllis Wheatley branch Y. W. C. A., 839 East Eighth street.

A program for the year, "A Study of Negro Homicides," will be outlined and assignments made for classes in the social science departments of the senior and junior high schools, according to B. Cortez Tipton, president of the organization, and principal of the colored division of Bonny Oaks school.

The program has the indorsement of Commissioner Thomas H. McMillan, of the city's education department, and Superintendent A. L. Rankin, of the county system.

Principals of all Negro junior and senior high schools are especially urged to attend the meeting, and citizens interested in curbing the "enormous crime rate among Chattanooga Negroes," are invited to attend and hear the commissioner speak.

Negro Gets 50 Years For Club Robbery

MEMPHIS, TENN., Dec. 5.—(AP)—Criminal Court Judge T. W. Harsh today sentenced Fred Norfleet, 22-year-old negro, to a total of 50 years in prison on a plea of guilty to four robbery charges growing out of the Sept. 2 holdup of a poker party at the Saddle and Spur Club during which Dr. Hedges Rosamond was shot and seriously wounded.

Norfleet also was sentenced to 11 months and 29 days and fined $50 on a charge of carrying a pistol.

Two other negro youths, Percy Norfleet, 16, and Willie Beard, 16, also pleaded guilty to the robbery charges and will be sentenced tomorrow in probate court which handles defendants under the age of 17. The negroes were charged with breaking into the club while a poker game was in progress and robbing four members of the party.

Dr. Rosamond was reported improving at a Memphis hospital.

Wrongful Accusations

THERE ARE SUFFICIENT crimes involving Negroes being staged and subsequently played up under bold headlines by the press to obviate the wrongful accusations that are oftimes directed wherein Negroes are accused of slave violations.

When a white woman store operator was attacked near her place of business in Knoxville, several weeks ago, she told police officers that two Negroes knocked her down and robbed her. News articles concerning the affair played up her version in a manner to increase prejudice toward members of the Negro racial group. Later this same woman appeared before the Knox County grand jury and told that a young white man was the assailant and after that body voted an indictment against the white man she prosecuted the case in criminal court resultant in the jury hearing the case failing to agree.

It is plain why twelve men could not agree that the white man was guilty, even in the face of strong proof, when any person would in so careless a manner seek to incriminate two innocent Negroes.

The unfortunate phase of the situation is, not a single line has been published that would have a tendency to correct the already established impression that the crime, if a crime was committed, was staged by Negroes.

Bill James' Standing Held Low Among Better Negro Citizens

Bill James, the Negro pardoned numbers racketeer, has a low standing among the better element of the Negro population in Nashville, a Negro correspondent advises THE BANNER.

In a letter, he said James was an egotistical "political monster" and a "cat's-paw" for politicians. He said James was not a leader of the Negroes in Nashville and did not control the Negro vote. The votes he controls, the writer said, are for his own "selfish operations."

The fact that Bill James testified on the witness stand before the State Crime Commission that at one time the numbers racket used faked numbers as pay-off numerals also has backfired on him. Said the correspondent:

"Yes, he loves Negroes—those Negroes who go out and take hard-working people's money on those numbers, which he himself said on the witness stand was 'funny.' Isn't it wonderful to say that, after you have robbed them for four or five years."

The letter follows:

"I am a Negro. I have been living in Nashville forty-five years. I have been a taxpayer for twenty-five years. I own considerable property, and I regard myself as a full Nashville citizen in every respect. I feel that I am in a position to express an opinion of Bill James which I have reasons to believe is the opinion of hundreds of Negro citizens living in this city and county.

"In the first place, Mr. Editor, Bill James is not any Negro leader in Nashville. He never has been our leader, and he never will be our leader. We pick our leaders on intelligence, and worthy contributions to our community; contributions that inspire our children to grow up with an idea of becoming respectable men and women.

"In the second place, Bill James does not control the Negro vote in this town. He never has controlled the Negro vote, and he never will control the Negro vote. No man, white or black, will no more control our vote than he will control the white vote. The truth of the matter is, Bill James has fooled white politicians into believing he controls votes in order to get protection for himself and for his various operations.

"If Bill James controls votes at all for anything, he controls them for Bill James and his own selfish operations—not for the best interest of the Negroes of Nashville. But I still say, Bill James does not control the Negro vote.

"In the third place, Bill James does not know anything about political and civic life in Nashville among Negroes. He knows as much about politics and civic affairs as I know about making a watch. He controls as many Negro votes as I control national banks.

"As to his reported liberalness to white candidates. No man in Nashville has made as big a chump, fool and tool out of himself as this so-called "king" of the Negroes. For the life of me, tell me what on this earth can or could this fool get from dumping $2,000 into Joe Byrns' campaign? What could this fool get from pouring money into various white candidates' campaigns? After doing all this for a big 'name,' which he loves more than a hungry hog loves slop, he had to go to prison after all, and only got out through some fishy plans, apparently, that involved several white politicians who were mad at each other. This "political monster" was used as a cat's-paw to get out, and according to information, he is far from being a 'free' man now.

"As to his love for Negroes, he loves white politicians more than he loves his ill-gotten money. He would rather pay thousands for their smiles and handshakes than seriously confer with Negro leaders on matters of grave importance to the Negro race. He takes more interest in financing white candidates' campaigns than he would dare take in advancing numerous small Negro businesses. Yes, he loves Negroes—those Negroes who go out and take hard-working peoples' money on those numbers, which he himself said on the witness stand, was 'funny.' Isn't it wonderful to say that, after you have robbed them for four or five years?

"As a Christian gentleman, I know nothing about him. I have had my first time to see him in any church. I have had my first time to see him at any respectable meeting of Negroes for important drives for the best interest of Negroes. When I do see him, he is on the run from every Negro.

"It's all right to expose his rackets. I hope you continue to expose them for the simple reason his profits do us absolutely no good. He makes his money off Negroes, mostly, then gives it all back to men running for offices who he is crazy enough to think he will control.

"Lastly, as to his egotism. Well, if he could change the name of Nashville, Tenn., to 'Bill James Tenn.,' he certainly would do it."

Crime – 1938

Texas.

VICTIM OF 'TORTURE CHAMBER' IN TEXAS

Courier

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT
(Special To The Courier)

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Oct. 6—Echoes of the "torture-chamber" and "Calcutta Hole" deaths of prisoners in a Pennsylvania penitentiary, were heard here last week when K. C. Morris, a Negro prisoner, died Sunday in the State Penitentiary.

10-8-38

Although the prisoner had been placed in solitary confinement for eleven days on a "bread and water" diet, prison officials said his death was from "natural causes."

WHIPPED AND SENT TO FIELDS TO WORK

When Morris was finally released from the dank prison cell, he was brutally whipped and then sent to the fields to work. He died a few hours later.

Morris allegedly was placed in the "hole" because of "laziness." When notice of his death was first given out, it was rumored that officials would be held responsible. However, when the board met to investigate the prisoner's death, Chairman Joseph Wearden, of Victoria, announced: "There was no maliciousness connected with the prisoner's death, but lack of good judgment was employed."

Various leaders refuse to accept the report in good faith.

Crime - 1938

Texas.

LEAVE CRAP SHOOTERS ALONE

Nearly every Sunday or Monday morning we notice in the paper that the police have done a thriving business raiding Negro crapshooting games. For instance, there will be a story saying that the police raided a party and picked up fifty-five Negroes at such and such address. Such raids and such arrests just don't impress us much.

Gambling may be a sin, but after all it is not any great crime against society. Personally, we don't believe that men should be arrested for gambling. As long as they do it in their private homes and don't disturb anybody else, it is a matter of their own conscience as to whether they gamble or whether they don't. It is just as fair to arrest a man for shooting craps with his friends as it would be to go to a church bazaar and arrest the preacher and the sisters for raffling off quilts or any other thing that they have.

When we realize that at the same time that the police are making these great raids on Negroes for shooting craps, hi-jackers are making life almost unliveable for the citizens; burglaries are going on under our very noses; robbers are taking almost the hinges off our doors in our faces and the police don't seem to know what to do about it, we are even less impressed with the arrests of crapshooters.

If we had the say at the police station, the first rule that we would make would be: "No more crapshooters arrested until after all of the burglars, sneak thieves and robbers, hi-jackers and murderers have been apprehended." Our jails are kept full of crapshooters while our real criminals go at peace unmolested.

Another angle of this crapshooting racket is that the arrested crapshooters are used to do the janitor work at the jailhouse. Not long ago the sheriff was quoted as saying that he saved $10,000.00 a year by the use of the services of crapshooters. As long as the sheriff's office can arrest crapshooters and use them for janitor work, there will always be a relation between the number of crapshooters arrested and the amount of work that the sheriff needs to have done.

DISMISS ASSAULT CHARGE AGAINST CHRISTEL GIBSON

Informer 5-14-38 Houston, Texas

HOUSTON.—The charges of aggravated assault filed against Miss Christel Gibson by the officers was summarily dismissed when the case came up Thursday morning, despite the officers' frantic attempts to hide the seriousness of their offense by amending the original charge of resisting an officer to aggravated assault.

G. W. Dickey, white patrolman, was given a 10-day suspension Monday by Chief of Police C. A. Williams for brutally asaulting Miss Gibson, a colored girl, on the North Main bus last week. In a letter to Jesse E. Moseley, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, Chief Williams said that he was giving Dickey this light penalty because of a recent accident he suffered, evidently referring to the accident where Dickey was struck by a car driven by a colored youth on Main and Prairie, Friday, April 1.

Chairman Moseley of the Civil Service Commission said pointedly that he thought the suspension was far too light, when the nature of the crime is considered. Many others thought that if Dickey was mentally irresponsible, he should be relieved from duty until he recovers, instead of exposing others to another outburst.

The following excerpts from the letter written by Attorney W. Jay Johnson, white co-chairman of the NAACP Legal Service Committee, gives the details of the indefensible attack:

"I B. McFarland, Esq.,
Chairman Houston Chamber of Commerce Inter-racial Committee,
c-o Houston First Federal Savings & Loan Assn.,
Houston, Texas.

"My dear Mr. McFarland:

"Concerning Christel Gibson, the colored girl about whom you so kindly and considerately telephoned me yesterday, please be advised:

"Christel is approximately eighteen years of age, having just finished high school and now is awaiting matriculation at Prairie View Normal; she always has resided with and been under the influence of her grandfather, H. L. Body, 909 Maggie Street, a fine old man of the soft spoken type, who has been a preacher for about forty years and owns and resides in his own home; she is clean and refined in appearance and of the quiet unobtrusive type.

"I present these details concerning Christel and her environment because of its important bearing upon the charge against her, to-wit, assault **"upon an officer in the lawful discharge of the duties of his office,"** in this instance an able bodied man clothed in a police officer uniform and bearing fire arms; and, it should be quite interesting to you to be reminded that the preliminatory statutory requirement for making assault upon an officer, an "aggravated" one, is—"if it was known or declared to the offender that the person assaulted was an officer **discharging an official duty."**

"Christel states that she entered a Houston Electric Company bus traveling on the "North Main" route at the intersection of Prairie and Fannin thoroughfares, and found the "Jim Crow" signs or screens in a position which indicated that the rear cross seat and the immediately preceding two side seats thus were set apart for colored passengers; however, the operator of the bus was violating and or permitting the law concerning such matters to be violated by permitting two white youths to occupy that rear seat and a white man to occupy one of those side seats, thus leaving but one seat for occupancy by colored passengers, unless this colored passenger would seat herself beside the white passengers, which, in this instance, Christel did not do, but occupied the only vacant seat available for her **behind the "Jim Crow" screen,** this about 4:00 o'clock P. M., Thursday, April 28, 1938.

"By way of side comment at this point, it is rather common knowledge that some young white boys apparently take delight in and assume they have a sort of inalienable right for making uncomplimentary and solicitious remarks to colored girls under similar conditions, and I am satisfied that Christel is the type who would avoid such insult.

"Christel says that about one city block distance after she entered the bus two police officers entered, more than likely at the intersection of Preston and Fannin thoroughfares, since the police station is on Preston Avenue, and we know that at least one of these officers was enroute to his residence which is not far removed from the home of Christel with her grandfather.

"In spite of the fact that there was ample room for these two officers to seat themselves on the same bus-wide seat where the boys were riding; even though it was in the Negro section, one of these officers, **according to the words of a white man who witnessed all of the matter and voluntarily called the police department and learned the address of Christel and then went to her residence and advised her grandfather of the facts,** conducted or misconducted himself as follows:

"'I am not sure whether Christel entered the bus at Texas or Prairie, and I am not sure whether the officers entered the bus at Prairie or Preston, they might have followed her on immediately, but not until after she was seated on the side seat; I know one of the officers personally, his name is G. W. Dickey, the other is named Galbreath.

"'When the officers came the one I know to be named Dickey spoke to the colored girl and said, 'Hey, you, get off there!', thus telling the girl to get off her seat; she looked up at the screens or signs and then told the officer that she was behind the screen, and that the other seats were filled; his answer was a violent push or shove of the girl off the seat so that she fell between the side seat and the rear one, keeping herself from going to the floor by grabbing the seats.

"'When she arose she apparently was not sure whether the officer was going to strike her again, so she put up her hands in a manner

that might be interpreted as an endeavor to strike the officer, but she never touched him; then the officer took her by the arm and throat and choked her, forcing her down upon the rear seat, continuously twisting her arms and choking her violently until the bus reached about Zindler's store, which is at the intersection of Congress and Fannin thoroughfares, where he pulled her off of the bus by the hair.'

"This white man was so outraged at this "rank act of injustice," or shall I use another of his words—"brutality," that he took it upon himself to inquire from the police department as I have stated and with the results indicated, and another reason it is fortunate that this white man took this action is that, as Christel states, the police officers would not permit her to use the telephone and, therefore, no doubt, also her aged grandfather would have been punished with anxiety and worry concerning the whereabouts or welfare of his granddaughter.

"I am advised that Christel first was charged with simple assault in a Justice of the Peace Court, under which she had made a $300.00 bond and was at liberty, but, apparently at least one of these officers felt it necessary to take advantage of the special provision of the aggravated assault statute, as earlier quoted, in order to cause her to be rearrested and thus caused to file a new bond, this time in the sum of $400.00, and I am now engaged in making such bond.

"While the refusal to permit telephoning is a minor matter in the light of the other facts, yet I am wondering how many more times the Mayor and City Council of Houston will have to instruct the police chief and officers to permit arrested persons to immediately contact their relatives or attorney by telephone!

"Evidently, judging from this whole picture, and many other like ones, both against "Whites," "Mexicans," and "Colored," there is something radically wrong with the attitude of a number of peace officers toward the public which pays them, and Mexican and colored property owners pay taxes for support of these officers as well as white property owners.

"Finally, please remember that Christel Gibson was **not violating any law,** hence neither of these officers then could be **"an officer discharging an official duty"**— further remember, **they were not arresting Christel** nor the white persons who then were the violators of the "Jim Crow" law, for that law reserves **that space exclusively for Negroes;** truth is, **here the officers were law violators,** not Christel."

The mayor and chief of police apologized for a 200-pound, armed officer thus unprovokedly attacking a hundred pound school girl.

Texan Files Suit Against Employers

DALLAS, Texas, Sept. 8—A suit for $57,300 was filed here this week by twenty-four-year-old Mickey Ricketts, against Dr. and Mrs. F. I. Newton, both white, and seven others including two policemen, charging false imprisonment, beating, kicking, starving and threatening.

The suit grew out of Ricketts' being located by policemen in the attic of Dr. and Mrs. Newton's home in Highland Park here July 30. According to police, Ricketts had been imprisoned in the attic of the Newton home for five days, bound and gagged, because they suspected him of stealing jewelry from Mrs. Newton.

The Newtons, along with two servants, have been indicted by a grand jury on charges of false imprisonment, in connection with the kidnapping.

DIXIE KIDNAP CASE IS SETTLED OUT OF COURT FOR $500

By JOHN R. WILLIAMS
Staff Correspondent

DALLAS, Tex., Sept. 15—The $50,000 kidnap case of Mickey Ricketts against Dr. and Mrs. I. F. Newton, wealthy white Dallas physician, was settled before Judge W. L. Thorton in District Court for $500 last week. Dr. and Mrs. Newton, along with several of their house servants, were charged with kidnaping and holding Ricketts a prisoner early in August. He was kept in the attic of the Newton home for several days, living without food and water.

It is alleged that police intervention prevented the murder of Ricketts. Immediately after the settling of the case Rickets left, supposedly for Tulsa, Okla.

Although the case was settled for a comparatively small sum, friends of Ricketts believe that the Newtons spent a lot of money in an effort to get a decision in their favor.

Trial proceedings were shrouded with a veil of mystery. Witnesses for Ricketts, who were being held in jail, appeared nervous and afraid to talk. Even though all concerned admitted the case of Ricketts was good, false imprisonment charges against W. L. Reed, (white) fake "G" man and self-styled "Negro Psychologist," Cosette F. Newton (white) and two servants, Charles Blair and William Harrison are still pending in County Criminal Court.

With the leaving of Ricketts the Criminal case is expected to die a natural death.

$500 Paid Negro Chauffeur Who Was Kidnaped, Tortured By Rich White Texas Pair

Settlement In $51,000 Damages Case Ends Sensational Trial; Abducted For Alleged Theft

DALLAS, Sept. (ANP)—One of the most sensational kidnap cases unearthed in Texas was settled here last Saturday when in the Civil District court of Judge Thornton, Mickey Ricketts, Negro kidnap victim, was handed a check for $500 in settlement of his $51,000 suit against Dr. and Mrs. F. I. Newton, his alleged wealthy white kidnappers.

A former chauffeur for the Newtons, Ricketts was accused by Mrs. Newton of having knowledge of an expensive jade ring stolen from her home and valued at several thousand dollars. When he denied the charge he said he was bound and gagged by the couple and taken to the attic of the house where he was tortured in an effort to make him confess.

Police raided the home and found Ricketts, his mouth taped to prevent outcry and his arms and legs bound with rope. As a result, Mrs. Newton and three alleged accomplices have been indicted by the County grand jury on charges of false imprisonment

Girl Hurt By Ex-Envoy Is Still Unconscious

Journal and Guide

Wm. E. Dodd, Sr., Faces Hit-Run Charges

Gloria Grimes Hit Dec. 5 Still Unconscious

12-17-38

Special to Journal and Guide

RICHMOND, Va. — That William E. Dodd, Sr., former United States ambassador to Germany, may have to face an even more serious charge than hit-and-run appeared possible Tuesday afternoon when it was revealed that Gloria Grimes, the four-year old Hanover County girl struck by his automobile last week, was still unconscious and in a critical condition.

Mr. Dodd is scheduled to appear Saturday, December 17, in Hanover County Trial Justice Court to answer the charge of hit and run.

CHECK REJECTED

The warrant for his arrest was not issued until Thursday, December 8, and he was brought to Hanover Courthouse Thursday night and released on $2,000 bond.

Under date of December 8 Mr. Dodd addressed a hand-written note to the victim's mother, enclosing $25 "to help pay expenses." He laid all the blame on the child in the letter. The mother, Mrs. Lespinia W. Grimes, returned the check Saturday through her attorney, Georg E. Haw of Richmond.

APPARENT WARNING

Mr. Dodd's letter apparent warned her against starting leg action against him, from the fo lowing incompleted sentence in t letter: "... but if newspapers sta a sensation on me, or if you sta legal procedure against me."

The former ambassador, who taken before Trial Justice Robert T. Winston, Thursday night, December 8, said that the mishap was "entirely an accident."

"I didn't stop, first," Mr. Dodd said, "because I wasn't sure that I had hit him (the girl was dressed an ex-ambassador, I didn't want to make a sensation."

SKULL FRACTURED

The child was admitted to St. Philip Hospital December 5, around noon and she was reported as suffering from cerebral concussion, a fracture of the skull, and various lacerations. At noon Sunday she was reported "a bit better, but still critically injured."

Mr. Dodd's letter to Mrs. Grimes, mother of the girl, was on stationery embossed "Embassy of the United States of America." The text of the letter follows:

"Dear Mrs. Grimes:

"I am enclosing you a check to help pay expenses; but if newspapers start a sensation on me, or if you start legal procedure against me—

"It was absolutely not my fault. The youngster started across the road when my car was running 45 miles an hour—on the way to lecture in south Virginia. I did my best to stop, but it was impossible when I was about 30 feet away when the youngster started across the road.

"When I put on my brakes the car turned almost around and a woman driving behind could hardly avoid hitting my car. She did escape by a foot or two. You see it was entirely your child's fault, not mine. Nobody can stop a car running the regular rate in 30 feet.

"The reason I did not stop to talk things over was that I thought the child had escaped. Besides I did not want the newspapers all over the country to publish a story about the accident. You know how newspapers love to exaggerate things of this sort. I hope your child recovers.

"Yours truly,

"(Signed) WILLIAM E. DODD."

The former ambassador seemed more perturbed over the confiscation of his automobile than over his bond. The automobile was ordered held by Commonwealth's Attorney Edward P. Simpkins, Jr., who said that he would not allow it to be returned until he had examined it and not until after the trial if it was valuable as evidence.

State Police reported that there were two dents in the left front fender, but no other evidence of the accident.

DID NOT KNOW OF LAW

When Mr. Dodd was reminded by Trial Justice Winston soon after he appeared in court Thursday night, December 5, that a hit-and-run charge was a felony, Mr. Dodd said that he did not know that was the law.

Bond was furnished by T. Justice Moore of Richmond, a friend of the Dodds. While waiting for Mr. Moore, Mr. Dodd said, "I have to have my car to get around."

Trooper Johnstone explained that his instructions were to confiscate the car and hold it.

"Can't you call him (Motor Vehicle Director Marion S. Batte) up and tell him the facts?" Mr. Dodd asked. He told newspapermen: "It was a great thing to arrest a man who has served his country four years as ambassador to Germany."

"They would have shot me over there," he added, "I don't know whether they will shoot me over here or not." Later he commented: "There wasn't any help for it. The child committed murder for itself in running out into the road."

The child was hit about half a mile north of Hanover Courthouse on State Route 2 about 11 o'clock Monday morning, Dec. 5. It was reported that the child walked into the road in an attempt to cross to other persons walking on the opposite side.

WITNESSES GET NUMBERS

State Trooper Carlisle Johnstone swore out the warrant and served it at Dodd's home at Round Hill, Va. A number of persons who witnessed the accident denounced the action of Mr. Dodd in leaving the scene and the child unconscious on the road.

Miss Anna Virginia Grimes, a sister of Cloria, and another witness, Miss Gertrude Green, were said to have noted the license number on the fleeing car. Mrs. Winston Woolfolk, white, said to be driving a car directly behind that of Mr. Dodd, and W. S. Chanault reported the accident to the police.

In a letter to the Division of Motor Vehicles December 8, Mr. Dodd explained that he was in such a hurry because he had an engagement to speak at McKenney, 25 miles south of Petersburg. He stopped the car so quickly, he added, that it turned around and was nearly in collision with a car behind him. He was alone in the machine at the time.

Commonwealth's Attorney Simpkins said that the preliminary trial would be handled in the routine way, just as if the former ambassador were John Doe. It is probable that the case will be sent to the Circuit Court grand jury which meets the third Monday in January.

Mr. Dodd attended a luncheon Sunday with President Roosevelt at the White House.

Crime – 1938

Virginia

When Police Employ Tactics of the Mob

THE assumption by many police officers that a man, once he has served a term, short or long, in prison for violating a law, is at heart a criminal, an avowed enemy of society, deserving of summary arrest, assault and punishment whenever a crime takes place in the community where he lives, is unfair and a gross infringement of his rights.

"Due process of law" is applicable to all who are suspected of offenses against society. To prejudge a man guilty who has once violated the law, on the basis of his past record, without giving him the elementary right to defend the charge against him in a court of law; and to deliberately work up public sentiment against him before all the evidence has been assembled in the case and presented to a jury of his peers for due consideration is contrary to sound American principle and tradition.

The frequency with which police officers whip out their guns to halt persons, particularly of the colored race, suspected of a crime, and the tragedy which so often follows as a result, indicate the urgent need for better acquaintance by officers of the law with social factors which make for crime, and the fundamental difference between constitutional rights and racial dogmas.

Of all the questionable practices of police officers, none is so revolting as that of shooting a defenseless, friendless, jobless man, simply because he is suspected of a crime. The weeding out of such officers is necessary if police officers desire the respect and confidence of public opinion.

The shame and embarrassment which a community, and the law, must bear when such a suspect turns out to be innocent; or when, as has happened in many instances, the suspect is proven to be a culprit turned colored by burnt cork, is too big a price to pay for this unfair assumption on the part of many police officers.

Richmond, Va. News-Leader
July 29, 1938

Warren's Actions in Trial Disapproved by N. A. A. C. P.

"Although John Henry Warren today is a free man, his actions in the Powhatan Circuit Court do not meet with the approval of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People," declared Dr. J. M. Tinsley, president of the Virginia Conference of the N. A. A. C. P.

"I consider the last-minute decision on the part of Warren to allow Attorney Hopkins to handle his case before the court as the result of outside influence. Under the circumstances, there was nothing left for Attorney Hewin to do but resign."

Dr. Tinsley declared the N. A. A. C. P. had dispensed with Attorney Hopkins' services following Warrens' initial trial on the charge of murdering Nellie Finny. Warren had been identified as Albert [illegible] sentenced to [illegible] case was later reopened, Judge Garland Jefferson granted Warren his freedom. Dr. Tinsley charged that Attorney Hopkins even failed to appeal at Warren's hearing when he was first arraigned.

However, when Attorney J. Thomas Hewin was named chief counsel for the second trial, and was given permission by the N. A. A. C. P. to name an assistant, he chose Hopkins.

Says Hewin Chief Counsel.

Dr. Tinsley declares Hopkins should have followed the advice of Hewin, since the latter was chief counsel, when Hewin and Hopkins disagreed on the important question of waiving a jury. In following Hopkins' advice, Warren won his freedom.

Conference Is Held.

When Judge Garland Jefferson opened his court Tuesday morning, Attorney Hopkins motioned for a five-minute recess to allow for a conference with Warren. The recess was granted and the two lawyers retired to the ante-room. According to Attorney Hewin, "before a word was exchanged between lawyers and the prisoner, a newspaper man entered the room and told Warren to let Attorney Hopkins handle the case. Warren turned to me and stated he wanted Attorney Hopkins to handle the case. Mr. Hopkins, who had been employed by me as my assistant raised no objection, and since it is always the prisoner's right to change his attorney, I had no other alternative but to withdraw. Had I been in Mr. Hopkins' position, I would have at least reminded Warren, who was chief counsel in the case," concluded Hewin.

Hewin Leaves Court.

Attorney Hewin lingered long enough to see the case opened, then left the court and returned to the N. A. A. C. P. office in Richmond, where he reported the withdrawal and the circumstances to Dr. Tinsley.

Dr. Tinsley today thinked The News Leader for its part in the case, and added: "On the other hand, I want the reading public to know that the Virginia Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sponsored the legal defense of John Henry Warren. Further, J. Thomas Hewin was and still is the chief counsel for the association in Warren case. After Warren shifted to Attorney Hopkins at trial time, it was a matter of denying the association counsel and employing Mr. Hopkins, not an official representative of the association."

Fair Play In Virginia Courts

WE would say a word in commendation for the opportunity and the legal cooperation given two colored men in their efforts to prove their innocence before the bar of justice in the Old Dominion State.

In Powhatan and in Lancaster Counties, the state has arrested men on murder charges of long duration, brought them to trial on indictments several years old, and found out that it had accused the wrong man.

In the unusual and nearly identical cases of John Henry Warren in Powhatan, and James McCray in Lancaster, the state sought to avenge the slaying of two colored women.

The state made mistakes in both cases. It arrested John Henry Warren believing that the man was Albert Finney indicted for murder in Powhatan, and it arrested James McCray believing him to be James Lloyd Smith for whom there was also a murder indictment in Lancaster.

To the utter amazement of officials of the two counties, their prisoners informed the state that there had been some slight mistake in their arrests and that the state had incarcerated within its prisons men with physical characteristics similar to those of the alleged murderers but otherwise entirely different. They insisted that they were not murderers and that they could prove it.

Our Virginia courts are to be commended for the manner in which they cooperated in every way possible with these men in their efforts to establish their identity and to prove their innocence.

In Lancaster, even the judge and the prosecutor decided that they had been mistaken about James McCray and though a juror disagreed with the other 11 veiremen on the identity of the accused man, he is almost certain to be freed by court officials who seem more interested in seeing that justice is done than they are in gaining convictions.

The courts went to great trouble and expense to see to it that both Warren and McCray were given every opportunity to prove their real identity.

It is often that the courts and other agencies of the law make mistakes, particularly in regard to colored prisoners. It is not always that such sincere regard for the triumph of true justice is manifest in Southern courts. 'Tis a good sign and perchance means a new deal for colored people in the courts of law.

In passing it must be pointed out that frequently even the careful arm of the law makes a mistake in the identity of an accused man. Posses hurriedly gathered out of nondescript and irresponsible illiterates have probably made thousands of such mistakes in lynching race men.

ONLY IN COURTS OF LAW CAN IDENTITY BE FAIRLY ESTABLISHED.

Dodd Charged In Hit-And-Run Accident Case

Former Envoy To Berlin Denies Guilt In Injury To Child

HANOVER COURTHOUSE, VA., Dec. 8.—(AP)—William E. Dodd, Sr., former ambassador to Germany, was charged with hit-and-run-driving in a warrant sworn out today by State Trooper Carlisle Johnstone.

Trooper Johnstone left immediately for Dodd's home at Round Hill, Va., to execute the warrant which charged that Dodd failed to stop after his car struck and injured Gloria Grimes, 4-year-old negro, near here Monday. The warrant is returnable Dec. 16.

Dodd, speaking by telephone from his home in Northern Virginia, said he continued on his way because he

GIRL'S LIFE WORTH ONLY $25 TO EX-AMBASSADOR

CHILD AT POINT OF DEATH; DODD'S 'HUSH CHECK' IS RETURNED

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 15—Attorney George E. Haw said last Friday that the $25 "hush check" sent to Mrs. Lespinia W. Grimes, mother of 4-year-old Gloria Grimes, would be returned to former Ambassador William E. Dodd, Sr.

Dodd is charged with being the driver of an automobile which struck the child in a hit-and-run accident near Hanover Courthouse on December 5. He will be arraigned at Ashland, Virginia, this week.

DODD'S LETTER ADDS INSULT TO INJURY

Text of Dodd's letter, written on stationary embossed "Embassy of the United States of America," follows:

"Dear Mrs. Grimes:

"I am enclosing you a check to help pay expenses; but if newspapers start a sensation on me, or if you start legal procedure against me—

"It was absolutely not my fault. The youngster started across the road when my car was running 45 miles an hour—on the way to lecture in South Virginia. I did my best to stop but it was impossible as I was about 30 feet away when the youngster started across the road.

"When I put on my brakes the car turned almost around and a woman driving behind could hardly avoid hitting my car. She did escape by a foot or two. You see it was entirely your child's fault, not mine. Nobody can stop a car running the regular rate in 30 feet.

HE FEARED WHAT DAILY NEWSPAPERS MIGHT SAY

"The reason I did not stop to talk things over was that I thought the child had escaped. Besides I did not want the newspapers all over the country to publish a story about the accident. You know how newspapers love to exaggerate things of this sort. I hope your child recovers.

"Yours truly,
"WILLIAM E. DODD."

DODD ACCUSED IN HIT-RUN MISHAP

Ex-Envoy Is Charged With Failing To Stop Car

HANOVER COURTHOUSE, Va.—(AP)—William E. Dodd, Sr., former ambassador to Germany, will be given a preliminary hearing Dec. 17 in the Trial Justice Court at Ashland, Va., on a charge of hit-and-run driving.

Dodd, who was returned here last night, posted bond of $2,000, which was furnished by T. Justin Moore, Richmond attorney and friend of the Dodd family. The former ambassador is charged with failing to stop after his car struck and injured Gloria Grimes, 4-year-old Negro child, near here Monday.

When taken before Trial Justice Robert T. Winston last night, Dodd said the mishap was "entirely an accident." Justice Winston reminded him that a hit-and-run charge in Virginia involves a felony.

"I didn't stop, first," Dodd said, "because I wasn't sure I had hit him (the Negro girl was dressed in boy's clothing), and second, as an ex-ambassador, I didn't want to make a sensation."

thought the child had escaped injury. He said the girl ran directly into the path of his automobile as he was traveling about 45 miles an hour, and that he applied the brakes and swerved the car.

"It was not my fault," Dodd said. "The youngster ran into the path of my automobile about 30 feet ahead. I put on the brakes, turned the car and drove on because I thought the child had escaped."

Hospital attaches said the child's condition was critical, and that she was suffering from a cerebral concussion, a fracture of the skull and lacerations.

A number of persons were named as witnesses. These included Mrs. Winston Woodfolk, of Caroline County, who was said to be driving a car directly behand that of Mr. Dodd; W. S. Chenauti, who reported the matter to police; Gertrude and Anna Virginia Grimes, the latter a sister of the injured child, who were said to have reported the license number of the automobile.

Dodd served as ambassador to Germany from 1933 to 1937. He served as professor of history at Randolph Macon College from 1900 to 1908. Afterwards he became professor of American history at the University of Chicago, a post he filled until President Roosevelt sent him as ambassador to Germany in 1933.

Check From Dodd Will Be Returned

Former Ambassador Faces Hit-And-Run Charge

RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 9.—(AP)—George E. Haw, Richmond attorney, said tonight a $25 check tendered to Lespinia W. Grimes, mother of the 4-year-old negro child injured in a hit-run accident near Hanover Courthouse Monday, would be returned to former Ambassador William E. Dodd, Sr.

The former diplomat is free under $2,000 bond pending his arraignment at Ashland, Va., Dec. 17 on a warrant charging him with being the driver of the car which struck the child.

At St. Philip Hospital here, the child was reported in a critical condition. She suffered a fractured skull, cerebral concussion and other injuries.

The text of a letter from the ex-ambassador to the mother of the child, made public here today, said the reason Dr. Dodd "did not stop to talk things over was that I thought the child had escaped."

"Besides," continued the letter, dated Dec. 8, "I did not want the newspapers all over the country to publish a story about the accident. You know how newspapers love to exaggerate things of this sort."

The letter expressed the hope the child would recover.

DODD HEARING DELAYED

ASHLAND, Va.—(AP)—The preliminary hearing for William E. Dodd, Sr., former ambassador to Germany, on charge of hit-and-run driving, was continued Saturday until Jan. 10. Dodd, who was charged with leaving the scene of an accident Dec. 5 when Gloria Grimes, 4-year-old Negro child, was struck by an automobile and seriously injured, appeared after arguments had been concluded and renewed his bond of $2,000.

Gloria Grimes Unconscious 23 Days

Hospital Reports Condition Unchanged

ASHLAND, Va.—Gloria Grimes, 4-year-old victim of a hit-run driver remained unconscious twenty-three days after the accident, and the hospital reports that her condition "remains unchanged."

Last week at the preliminary hearing for Dr. Wiliam E. Dodd, ex-envoy, charged with being the driver of the car, held at Ashland, Mrs. Lethia Grimes, mother of Gloria, said that her child would be better off dead.

Dr. Dodd's case was continued to January 10 on the plea of his attorney that he had not sufficient time to prepare his case.

The accident occurred December 5 near Ashland, and it is charged that Dr. Dodd sped away without giving assistance. He claims that he did not know that he had struck the child, yet he sent Mrs. Grimes a check for $25, which she returned through her attorney.

Trial Justice Winston set January 10 as the date for the preliminary hearing and he pointed out that Dr. Dodd was either free of all blame or guilty of a felony, and the only courses for the judge to take would be either to dismiss the case, or send it to the Circuit Court grand jury.

Mrs. Grimes said that her child is all broken up and is unable to recognize anyone, and that one side is paralyzed. "I pray now that she will pass away, for I know she will be much better off," said Mrs. Grimes when interviewed by the Journal and Guide.

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Police Brutality Blamed For Youth's Death; NAACP Investigating Circumstances

SEATTLE, Wash.—(By Arline N. Paiya for ANP)—The Seattle community has been greatly incensed over the death of Berry Lawson, age 21, who died in the city hospital shortly after being arrested.

Lawson, it appears, was asleep in the lobby of a Japanese hotel on First Avenue when Police Patrolmen Fred H. Paschal, W. F. Stevenson and Patrick L. Whalen arrived to investigate a report of prowlers there. According to the patrolmen, the proprietor asked them to take Lawson away, who was not a guest of the hotel. They had a hard time awakening the sleeper, and testified "he seemed to be under the influence of marijuana. It took the three of us to put the handcuffs on him. He showed fight." Lawson broke away and fell, they said, as they were conducting him downstairs. Stevenson had remained behind to make another arrest, that of Mrs. Lenora Johnson, an Indian woman, who lived in the hotel.

Conflicting testimony, however, was given at the inquest. Mrs. Lenora Johnson testified that Lawson kicked one of the officers and was beaten by them. The three officers deny that Lawson was struck. The woman further declared that Lawson showed no sign of injury when they rode to the police station. She testified further that the officers sent her upstairs to be booked at the police station and kept the lad down by the patrol wagon. "They were quite awhile in booking me and finally brought the boy up in the elevator. He was all mussed up and was lying down. His face was stained with blood which hadn't been there when we rode up to the station. The proprietor of the hotel substantiated the Indian woman's testimony as to the officers striking the boy in the hotel lobby.

The N.A.A.C.P. committee investigated the matter and brought the facts before the coroner, Otto Mittelstadt. The coroner in talking to the committee was more violent in his denouncement of the officers than was the committee and strongly asserted that he would see that justice was done. However, at the inquest, he "whitewashed" the whole affair, refusing to admit pertinent testimony, defaming the character of the Indian woman, yet refusing to allow the character of Paschal to be questioned with the result that the jury brought in a verdict that Lawson "died of a fall downstairs after breaking away from his captors." Thus the patrolmen were completely exonerated.

There is much that interests the Negro community in this matter. In the first place, Paschal is known for the brutal beatings he gives to the men he arrests, whether white or colored. Many complaints and indictments have been brought against him, but so far he has escaped punishment. In the second place, expert medical authority affirms that the condition of Lawson's body shows conclusively that he was neither under the influence of narcotics or whiskey. Further, that it would have been impossible for him to receive the specific injuries that caused his death in a fall down the stairs. This is part of the pertinent testimony that the coroner would not admit at the inquest, though he had it in his possession. In the third place, there is the disappearance of witnesses. The two taxi drivers who were stationed outside the police station the night of the arrest, told the N.A.A. C. P. committee they saw Lawson WALK into the cab. Later retuted their statements saying that they were drunk at the time and did not remember what they saw. Another boy, guest at the hotel, who probably saw the whole affair, suddenly checked out without a forwarding address.

Young Lawson, apparently has not been in Seattle very long. He worked for the WPA, but up to the present no one has been able to ascertain just where he lived. His body was shipped to relatives in Kentucky. The daily papers carried news of the entire proceedings. The Times with headlines and pictures on the front page of their late edition.

The N.A.A.C.P. is carrying the fight further.